

復讐の勇者の再臨

「勇者やめて
元魔王と組みます」

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Arc 2: The Purgatory

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Chapter 1: The Beginning of Revenge

— Hero Amatsu.

The Hero who advocated an ideal to obtain world peace.

Amatsu already died at the time when he was betrayed by his companions.

Right now I'm no longer a Hero, I'm just Amatsuki Iori that is partnering with the former Maou.

For being killed, it was detestable.

Also it really is regrettable being betrayed.

Moreover, I'm really offended for having my ideal being made fun of.

But most of all, to pretend supporting my ideal while putting an act to intimately become my dear companion was something unforgivable.

Luser.

Dionis.

I've recalled that there was no glimpse of betrayal that will be committed by both of them.

For example Luser—

「 If you can't overcome a matter of such degree, just abandon that Hero title, you hear me! Just quit it, the weight of the title is probably too heavy for you to handle it! 」（Luser）

Till now I still remember that rough disposition of him whenever he tried to encourage me.

Even Dionis.

「 Your preparation is not enough. What can I say, You will just walk to your death in the future 」（Dionis） 「 He~, as expected of Dionis-sama. That insight is really something out of common! 」（Lucifina）

He really was sarcastic toward others. Even though he was like that, he took really good care of his subordinates.

Yet, all along the journey he always seemed to try and conceal that weakness of his.

Because of that, I've thought that they were my trusted companions.

When I try to recall everything that they did, it was probably just an act.

I felt the urge to vomit.

But there is only one person, only Lucifina from the first time when I met her, she never showed that she got tired of me.

She was a gentle woman who readily sacrificed herself for the sake of others.

She was the biggest reason that drove me into having a desire to save the world.

But, that doesn't matter anymore.

I'll face off those companions of mine and finally I'll kill every single one of those bunch that betrayed me till no one is left.



The Forest of Urugusu.

Its located in between the Kingdom and an Federation, its a really vast forest.

The passage was quite dangerous because there's lots of demons and beasts inhabited in it.

「 How much magic resistance is needed to nullify the 『 Karma of Reverse Burial 』? 」(Iori) 「 It should be the level which is able to nullify magic from those King Four Devas class. Well, if its us from back then, we might be able to handle it to some degree 」(Elfisuzaku) 「Its really troublesome magic, huh 」(Iori)

Several hours after teleporting from the labyrinth.

In order to reach our next destination toward the Federation, currently we are in that forest.

「 To nullify that magic..... We might be able to nullify it if we use either lost magic or mental image magic class that greater exceeded it, right 」(Iori) 「 Either way is impossible. Because to begin with, we can't use neither the lost magic nor the mental image magic 」(Elfisuzaku)

Something like mastering both of magics.

First one, the lost magic.

The consumption for magical power was high, moreover it's difficult to handle and now nobody could use that type of magic.

Something as reproducing it, the possibility to use it is only by mastering it.

The 『Karma of Reverse Burial 』, the one used by Luser is classified among those Lost Magics.

Then for mental image magic.

As according to its name, its magic to manipulate the human 『 Heart State 』.

The effects are different for each person and it was a similar thing that consumed quite a large amount of magical power.

For this mental image magic Lucifina was able to use it.

There are few humans that can use either one of this magics.

Therefore, the mages will only be able to master either one of it.

It was impossible to use Lost Magic if one doesn't completely understand the principle of the magic itself.

For me that depends on the “Proof/Mark”, it was impossible for me.

In addition, even for heart manipulation magic it was not possible for me to do it.

「 After all, there's no choice but to go to the labyrinth and regain my power, huh 』(Iori) 「 Umu. Regain our power quickly, then kill all those traitor! 』
(Elfisuzaku)

It was Elfisuzaku the one that said those dangerous remarks.

While we had such a talk the temperature fell.

The sun goes down, as the light of the madder red passes through the gap of

the trees. T/N madder red = Akane-iro

「 Its not long before sunset. Looks like we will camp out here today 」(Iori) 「 Eh? But there's no pillow and bed? 」(Elfisuzaku) 「 As if there will be one 」(Iori)
「 Wh.....WHAT? 」(Elfisuzaku)

Leaving the stunned Elfisuzaku, I look around to start the camping preparation.

There's open space among the trees ahead, there would be a good base area.

「 Camping.....camping is it. Iori, what do I need to do for the encampment? 」(Elfisuzaku) 「 First of all, we need to prepare a place to rest. A barrier as countermeasure for demons, collecting firewood for our source of fire. After that we gather some food and water. About the prevention against demon, the magic stone will do the trick 」(Iori)

Fortunately, I was able to find a clear/clean river near by.

I make a barrier to ward off the demons.

「 Iori knows a lot, huh 」(Elfisuzaku)

「well 」(Iori)

When I was on my journey, the matter concerning the encampment I remembered it briefly.

.....but, I don't want to remember about the person who I learned it from.

Unexpectedly Elfisuzaku acted obediently.

She collect the firewood and dead leaves quickly without complaining.

I thought that she seemed to avoid such a troublesome thing, but.

On the other hand, she moves her steps while humming.

「 It seems that you're in a good mood, huh 」(Iori) 「 Yeah. It is my first time camping and I cannot help for being excited 」(Elfisuzaku)

She looks like such an outdoor “I can do it” former Maou.

Then in a few minutes, I've secure our bed spot.

Because I use the magic stone to set up the barrier, the low-class demons and beasts will probably not come near.

We were able to secure the firewood quickly all thanks to the herculean strength of Elfisuzaku.

But, because there are no sleeping bags. I sleep leaning against the tree.

If there's cloth, I might make a bed to put it over the dead leaves.

「If only I brought some cloth with me. 」(Iori)

「 Hmm, do you want some cloth? 」(Elfisuzaku)

「 Do you have some? 」(Iori)

With a nod, Elfisuzaku stuck her finger into her head abruptly.

“ZUBUZUBU” thus her finger tip sunk.

Right after that her hand pulled out two pieces of cloth.

「 Here 」(Elfisuzaku)

「but wait. What did you do just now 」(Iori)

How did the cloth came out from her head.

「 It is storing magic. Because it leads to the small room from a different dimension, I can store many thing to some degree 」(Elfisuzaku)

The magic which is applied is the same as the pouch that I have.

However, It was the first time that I saw someone using storage magic on one's own head.

「 However, it'll be crowded if I'm to store too many items 」(Elfisuzaku)

.....It'll give some considerably shocking image, huh.

It piqued my interest a little, I want to see it.

After that I make our dinner from the hare and the fruits we secured earlier.

For the water that I took from the river, before drinking I sterilise it by boiling it first.

I put both the food and the water into the container that Elfisuzaku took out from head.

「T.....this 」(Elfisuzaku)

Right after Elfisuzaku tasted the food that I made, she opens her eyes wide.

「 Iori ! CALL THE CHEF WHO COOKED THIS! 」(Elfisuzaku) 「 It's me who cooked that 」(Iori)

「 Is that so? 」(Elfisuzaku)

What's with that so suddenly.

「.....Is it not to your liking? 」(Iori)

「 No, not that. It was more delicious than I imagined and I really intended to praise it 」(Elfisuzaku)

With a smile on her face, Elfisuzaku chews the hare meat.

Even to say cooking, its just to the extent that I seasoned it lightly with some spicy grass and salt.

It's good if its to your liking.

「 Umu, after all you're my exclusive chef that's under my contract 」
(Elfisuzaku) 「 I decline it 」(Iori)

「 eh..... 」(Elfisuzaku)

For the present, our stomachs swelled and our throats were moistened, too.



After dinner.

On the simple bed that I made out of leaves covered by cloth, I perform some experiment with magic.

Thanks to the Labyrinth core, I was able to use magic to some extent with the magic stone.

Right now I want to try reproducing the skill that uses a small quantity of magical power.

「 It seems that I'm able to use it to some extent 」(Iori)

Although it was degraded and its effect is also falling.

For the 【 Magic Break Suppression 】, even if its scale of power is substantially lost, I may be able to exercise it depending on training.

Right before I was about to end my experiment.

「 It can't be denied that the outside world is a beautiful thing 」(Elfisuzaku)
Elfisuzaku which plopped herself down nearby muttered alone.

「 There's light, sound, breeze and even something nice to eat 」(Elfisuzaku)
「」(Iori)

「 Because I was being sealed in the darkness isolated from the outside world. It was somewhere with no sound and light, you see. Its been long time since I went outside 」(Elfisuzaku) 「It was thirty years ago, right 」(Iori)

I heard that right after I died Elfisuzaku got sealed.

That means Elfisuzaku was in darkness for thirty years.

「 The scene just before I was sealed comes across my mind. Ortega which laughed at me after killing my subordinate. The Onizoku man that was jesting and laughing at me. Moreover, With a despising look from the bottom of her heart, Lucifina drew her sword to me. It made me bare an intolerable amount of hate, hate, hate, hate toward those guys 」(Elfisuzaku)

After she declared that, Elfisuzaku breathed out to control her emotions.

「 Its been quite a while since I had some conversation and having you as my conversation partner its really a unexplained feeling 」(Elfisuzaku) 「Elfisuzaku 」(Iori)

「 Iori. The way you call me is so long, right 」(Elfisuzaku)

Elfisuzaku said that to cut off the heavy atmosphere.

「Just especially for you, I permit you to call me Elfi and you should be grateful for it 」(Elfi) 「 You're self-conceit as ever, huh 」(Iori)

「 Of course because I'm the exalted one, you know 」(Elfi)

Which part of it?

「gosh! I get it 」(Iori)

Elfisuzaku — Elfi in return, she nodded lightly.

「 Then from now on call me Elfi 」(Elfi)

「 That's fine. I'll put out the bonfire then 」(Iori)

Right after I say that Elfi fell silent.

Not long after, only the sleeping breath is audible.

「」

Even with that carefree attitude, this fellow seems to hold considerably darkness inside her.

To the extent that in each conversation Elfi stares through my eyes like she's seeking for an answer.

As if she can't believe " is this really reality?", seems that she's unable to distinct it.

「Fuu 」(Iori)

I end the thought and lie down.

The fatigue from the fight with The Earth Demon Lord is still there.

As I closed my eyes I lost my consciousness and fell asleep right after that.



Several days have passed after that.

「.....It came into view」

Finally, we arrive at the exit of the forest.

As we left the forest, the maintained highway spread out.

There's a city at the foot of the huge volcano coming into my view.

The Federation.

Its the county where the Purgatory Labyrinth resides and I must go there to regain my power.

Afterwards, for the traitor residing there that I saw from the 『 Golden Sword of Probing 』.

By saying “For peace sake”, the demi-human from the wolf tribe that approached me trying to appear a good person.

I'll surely come to you by all means and I'll kill you first for my vengeance.

Chapter 2 The Federation • Hot Spring City

The Burukania Federation.

Its made of a small and weak country on the west part of the Leytesha that unite under one banner.

It adopted the parliamentary system where the representative of each state discuss the national related matters in an open parliament.

Not only humans but there are a lot of demi-humans that reside in this city. While there are many countries that do not welcome the demi-humans, for the Federation its probably a normal sight.

However, the Mazoku isn't welcomed here.

「 Because there's people, don't take off that bracelet, okay? 」(Iori)

「 I get it, it can't be helped that I need to hide my magical power, right 」(Elfi)

Currently, on Elfi's arm there's a magic item known as『 Bracelet of Disguise 』. Its a bracelet capable of disguising Mazoku magical power into that of humans. Its been took out from Elfi's head for her to use just before entering the Federation.

By doing so, it enables Elfi to hide her true identity before we head toward the Federation.

「 Still, it really is a lively country to the extent of making one think that there is no labyrinth near it 」(Elfi)

Elfi muttered that right after she saw a lot of people walking in the city.

It really is a big city although there's the Labyrinth of Purgatory at the foot of the volcano, huh.

Because there's a hot spring excavated here, its also being known as 『The Hot Spring City 』

Its said that a lot of people come here only because of the hot spring.

In addition to that, there's an association known as the 『 Adventurer Guild 』 here.

There a lot of people that come here from other countries to register and be an

adventurer, because of that there are plenty capable persons gathered in this city.

「It became more lively than thirty years ago」(Iori)

The population should've increased too during those thirty years. Even during my journey days, I've come over to this city with my companions to rest.

The cityscape sure has changed and there's no trace of its former self.

「———」

While reminiscing that false calmness, I've recalled my current objective.

There are two things that I need to do in this city.

My first objective is to clear the Labyrinth of Purgatory and obtain the 【Labyrinth Core】. The second objective is to find those traitors and extract my revenge.

I've already told Elfi that there's a target of my revenge in this city. If she uses her demon eyes, it should be easier to figure their numbers.

First of all, to achieve my goals I need to make proper preparations.



Along the way we saw a lot of tourists scattering around the line up to a street stall area till we reached the part where lots of adventurers gather. The armour, blacksmith and item shop that were in a row came to my sight.

The main reason why I've come here is to prepare my equipment. Aside from Elfi, it is necessary for me to prepare the best equipment to make up for my current weakness.

Because I have the highest quality material known as Earth Demon Lord's 『Demon crystal』 and I want to make a weapon with it. Due to that we had some business with the blacksmith.

In the middle of my walk “Weapons, Protective Gear and Smithing” signboard came to my view.

According to store signboard, it seems that they also buy the demon parts and the magic stones.

The bell made a *KARANKARAN* sound when I opened the door.
As I entered the shop I saw a line up of weapons and armors.
The counter is far from the entrance and there's a room for smithing in the deepest part of the shop.
It seems that the door is build using sound proof material to ensure that no sound can slip trough it.

「 Welcome-nyaa —! 」

The shop assistant in uniform greeted us energetically after appearing from the door that connects to the inner part of shop.
On her head its something that looks like cat ears attached, when she was running it was “FUNYAFUNYA* swaying.
Somehow it seems that the shop assistant was from the “cat beastman”.

We made our way to the counter as I wanted to make an order.

「 Is it okay for me to make a request of smithing? Because I want to make a sword from the material obtained from a demon 」(Iori)

「 Then, could you please show me the material-nya~ 」

「 Elfi, take it out 」(Iori)

After all, the 『Demon crystal 』 was stored inside Elfi's head.
The reason is because this fellow head can store more that my pouch could.

「 Got it 」(Elfi)

「 Nyaa~!?! 」

Thus Elfi trusted her hand into the head and she “DOSADOSA” unload materials that I stripped from the Earth Demon Lord on the counter.
Then the ears of the shop assistant “PIN” raised up with her shocked expression showing on her face.
I'm sorry for showing something unsightly.

「 Nya, th, then please wait a moment-nya~ 」

After she verified the materials with a cramped expression on her face, the shop assistant withdrew toward the door that connects the inner part of the store.

「Whats with that expression, it seem that she saw a ghost 」(Elfi)

「 Of couse she is 」(Iori)

「 I don't get it.....」(Elfi)

Right after we finished our talk, a different shop assistant from before came out from the door.

It was an old man with a cranky face and attached on his white haired head were goggles for smithing use.

「 The Cave Dragon material is it」

Just by glancing at the material on the counter once the old man was able to guess it right.

「 So its a request to make a sword, huh. That fine. It will be done in a few days」

Afterward I was asked about my height, weight and even about postures/stances that I use and I've replied at everything that he asked. Meanwhile, Elfi *BETABETA* touched the displayed shield and sword and due to that she was being yelled at by the old man.

「 Nyanmel. Go buy the materials written here as these are necessary things to create the sword 」

「 Okay-nyaa —」(Nyanmel)

It seem that shop assistant name is Nyanmel. T/N or *Nyanmeru
She left the shop after the old man handed her the memo.

「 Anyway you will come here before the Labyrinth subjugation, right. I'll get it ready on that day」

After mentioning it, the old man moved toward the inner part of the store. Its probably the usual quirk of a craftsman, huh.
Somehow, it reminded me of the dwarven blacksmiths.

「 Mu.....whats with that human. Such a conceited fellow! 」(Elfi)

「 Gezz, look who's talking 」(Iori)

Anyway the smiting request for a weapon has ended. Until the sword request is done, I will be using the sword that I took from the treasure storage. It's because this is also an excellent sword.

After exiting the blacksmith's shop we continued our walk.
As always the street is crowded with lots of people.

「 Next let's head to the Adventurer Guild 」(Iori)
「 So we really need to register as adventurer, right? 」(Elfi)
「 Yeah, Its necessary to become an adventurer in order to enter the labyrinth 」
(Iori)

If the adventurer doesn't go to the Labyrinth of Purgatory it becomes their duty to protect the safety of the civilians.
Usually there's already the barrier and vigilance for that too.

Concerning the circumstances around here, I've already investigated it in the Kingdom archive.
Limited access to the labyrinth was more vague thirty years ago.

「besides if there are lots of people gathered at the guild, it will be easier to gather the information about that man 」(Iori)
「 I see 」(Elfi)

We go toward the direction of the adventurers guild,as we walk through the crowds.
On the side of the road there are stalls for attracting tourists and its probably the reason why is so crowded.

「 To become an adventurers one must take an examination. If its you, you'll probably be able to cope with 」(Iori)
「 — Iori stop 」(Elfi)

Suddenly Elfi stopped her steps.
Then she dragged me aside by pulling my left hand.

「what is it? 」(Iori)
I've lowered my voice as I asked Elfi.
That's impossible! Did she already find any leads regarding the traitor?

「 Gezz, although a Hero you still don't get it? 」(Elfi)
「What? 」(Iori)
「 — Try to sharpen your five sense 」(Elfi)

Elfi said that toward the perplexed me.
Her gaze was extremely sharp as a blade's edge that can even make every soul who saw it on the battlefield to tremble in fear.
Thus I move my sight where Elfi put her gaze.

What I saw were men lined up near the stall.
Somehow or another it seems to be adventurers and by a glance I understood that they put on considerably good equipment.
They surely did have a tense atmosphere around them.

Although it was a peaceful city and it seems to be a magnet that draws capable people.

Did Elfi react to that?

「 Those guys are surely strong, you see. I couldn't stop both my sense of smell and sight that nailed at it 」(Elfi)

「huh, sense of smell? 」(Iori)

Is that her way to interpret that there's something wrong?
Suddenly Elfi turn her head *NYARI* a grin appeared on her face.

「 Aah~, the famous Federation special cuisine that known as 『 Volcano Roasting 』.

It kind of aroused my interest.....I hope it will not disappoint me 」(Elfi)

Aah.....so its just about the food.

It's not the adventurers but the farthest stall that caught her gaze, huh.
I've dropped my shoulders due to unnecessary exhaustion.

Elfi looked at me with a bewildered expression.

「 Whats with that look Iori. Its a steak full of meat juices and fresh vegetables, especially being grilled using the volcanic stone, you know? It can be eaten only in this Federation and it's a supreme cuisine, you know? 」(Elfi)

「 Whats with that tense atmosphere just now and its all about food 」(Iori)

That reminds me,at the labyrinth and in the forest this fellow made racket 『 Make me a meal trice a day 』, 『 Call the chef 』.

In regard to her meals she really is a noisy one.

「 Well, put that tedious talk aside. First let's go to that stall to fill our

stomachs —」(Elfi)

「 No 」(Iori)

I grab Elfi's garment to stop her.

Then she directed her grudgeful gaze toward me.

This fellow.....

.....It feels complicated when I recall that I fought desperately against her once.

As I was about to head toward the adventurer guild, I've been dragged reluctantly by "I want to go to that stall" Elfi.

Episode 3: The Threatening Back Stabbing Gaze

Adventurers.

By using the Adventurer Guild they perform dangerous jobs such as demon extermination, labyrinth and bandit subjugation, their work can also be interpreted as a mercenary profession.

According to the book which I read in the kingdom, a plan to establish Adventurer Guilds in other countries is already being proposed, but currently the profession of adventurer can be found only in the Federations.

Due to its nature of performing such dangerous jobs, one must go through severe examination in order to become an adventurer.

It's said that in order to obtain the adventurer status a lot of people came from the surrounding countries to take the examination.

Besides, to join with the regular labyrinth subjugation corps and entering the Labyrinth of Purgatory I've registered with the Adventurer Guilds.

I reached it not long after I went out of the shop.

It was a grandiose and the largest building in comparison to its surrounding buildings.

「So this is Adventurer Guild. It sure is big, huh」(Elfi) Because it's a building where adventurers gathered, the interior is vast for such a reason.

There is a bar where the adventurers exchange information among them and the bulletin board where the request is being posted and the receptionist counter.

There seem to be various facilities provided here.

Due to so many adventurers gathered, the atmosphere created in the guild is quite crude.

「 But it sure is troublesome, for the labyrinth to be only accesible to adventurers 」(Elfi) 「 The reason is to prevent someone lacking considerable power to enter the labyrinth. Even though there were a lot of people challenging the labyrinth as a trial in the past 」(Iori) To us who stepped inside, the adventurers sharp stares were pointed at both of us.

Probably we look like a weird pair of them because most of the adventurers that I saw here are adults with robust figures.

Most of them are men with a big build.

Of course it will attract their attention if a boy and girl nonchalantly enter such premise.

BOSOBOSO in a subdued voice that seems to speak ill of us, a man with full body armor is murmuring something to his group.

And a man that wore a full-faced helmet silently turned his gaze toward us.

I'm sure he was a demi-human as I turn my sight toward him.

With a smirk the adventurers throw their lascivious gazes at Elfi's body, that can clearly be seen in their eyes.

「 Should I glare back at them with my demon eyes? 」(Elfi) 「 Bear with it because it could create an explosion if you did that 」(Iori) We went through various procedures before we lined up at the front desk.

After that we lined up at the right end that seemed to be a reception desk for adventurer registrations.

During my first time I hardly dropped in, but as expected from a place known as a guild.

Where the crude adventurers exchanges information among them in a bar as they appraise the newcomers.

ZAWAZAWA murmuring sounds can be heard and I focus a bit of my concentration at it.

「 Because, — right? 」

「 — The mercenary seems to participate in the subjugation 」

「—, yesterday was it? A document to subjugate the labyrinth has been put out」

The information that I hear.

「Gezz, I really can't bear those wolf beastman」

「Just keep it down. Someone might hear that」

Among what I heard there was a word that piqued my interest.

The wolf beastmen.

My main objective which draws me to this city.

The race of my betrayer is a wolf beastman.

When I'm trying to see whether I can get more information from those talks when I've focus my consciousness toward those adventurers, suddenly.

「———」

— It feel like there's someone gazing at me.

A gaze that is trying to see through me.

Is it the pursuer from the kingdom?

The moment when I was about to look back *PA*.

「Otto~」T/N Ops

Suddenly, something bumped into me.

When I turned my sight, standing right there was a man that wore full body armor.

「.....What?」(Iori)

「Don't "What?" with me. If you're going to become an adventurer for fun you'd better scram right now. Its not a place for a scrawny brats, and becoming an adventurer isn't for half-hearted ones, ya hear」

He said that in a irritated manner while trying to threaten me with his full body armor.

For us that look just like kids to suddenly barge in here, it isn't something they

can bear with, huh.

「 How about you try to get used to it and everything should settle with the guild examinations, right? Anyway you have no right to meddle in my business 」
(Iori) 「 Hah, is that so. Then the examination that you're gonna take, I'll be looking forward to it? 」

With a slight smile on his face the man with full armor on his body walks away to the inner side of the guild.

「 As expected I should use my Demon Eyes 」(Elfi)

「 Stop it 」(Iori)

After a while, our turn has come.

「 Next one please 」

The receptionist gives an explanation about the requirement to take the examination and the works of an adventurer to us.

Adventurer is near the profession of a mercenary by undertaking a request that is sent to the guild.

Searching for medicinal herbs, bandit subjugation, labyrinth subjugation and every one of those jobs can be separated into more specific ones.

According to the requests, from the content, there is also danger to being an adventurer and due to that they should take the risk of losing their lives into consideration, too.

Because of such things.

For such a profession that is exposed to a lot of danger, taking the examination is the requirement during the registration before one becomes a full-fledged adventurer.

The examination is to measure the battle capacity of an examinee.

The examinee will fight against the full-fledged adventurer and the examination result will be judged during the process.

After the explanation is over we are directed to go to the inner side of the guild.

We pulled ourselves together and headed toward the venue.



The weapon for the battle examination is loaned out by the guild or fight using you own magic.

The use of magic items and magic stones is prohibited during the examination.

Firstly you will be instructed to choose your weapon.

For me, I choose my usual one-handed sword.

By the way, Elfi didn't choose any weapon.

The match is divided into two at the hall, as four person will start at the same time.

Elfi and me have split separately.

「 The next one please get ready 」

After a while, my turn has come.

My opponent is an adventurer that belongs to the adventurers guild.

The examiner will give an evaluation and the result according to the match.

「 Yo~ 」

The opponent that appears in front of me was the man that used full body armor from before.

Apparently, the adventurer seems to be cooperating with the registration.

「 Hah, are you dreaming to become an adventurer with that scawny body of yours. But you still have the guts from before, right? Then let me check those guts of yours 」

「 My pleasure 」(Iori)

I move to the position indicated by the judges leisurely.

The man with the full body armour seemed like a mage.

He discarded his agility and wears an armor to prevent being damaged, so I conclude that he is a shooting type mage.

「 Then both sides please prepare yourself 」

Our distance from each other is not too far.

It can be covered if I dash forward immediately.

But my opponent is a mage.

At this distance its the matter of who makes his first move, that will conclude the result of the match.

「 You already chickened out, Oi」

「 If you want to back out you should do it now, ya hear—!? 」

As the adventurer keeps taunting, he observes me, I ignore it and fix my eyes on him.

My opponent is a mage and he should have a trick up his sleeve.

To be able to use my magic, I adjusted a bit of my magic power and I should try it here, huh.

「 Then get started! 」

A judge raised his hands and gave a command.

「 — Magic Usurpation 」(Iori) T/N it can be read either「 Magic Celler 」

I use the skill simultaneously when my opponet started to chant his magic.

I manage to properly catch his chant timing.

Its a skill to take magical power from my opponent and abolish the magic forcibly.

Just now it worked perfectly to a degree that it scattered my opponet magical power instantly.

「 Wh,what? My magical power is.....! 」

As his magical power scattered he leaks a suprising voice.

While he keeps his sight looked at me and my wooden sword.

At that moment, without wasting my chance.

「 Gu, Ooh~ 」

By using his weight I simultaneously throw him to the ground using his own weight to the weight of his armor.

Then I've placed the wooden one handed sword in my hand on his neck where the gap of his armour was.

If it was a real fight this man would've surely died on the spot.

「 Eh.....」

Only around five seconds have passed.

As for the other adventurers that were rooting for him before, they are just able to make a surprised expression now.

「 That's enough! 」

Due to what happened even the judge delayed to raise his voice.

It seems the examination has already ended.

「 What happened with the magic just now. Do you know what happened just now? 」

「 N, no.....actually, it just happened too fast and it kinda looked like a beast or something 」

Judging from the surprising condition of the adventurers, it seems the result will be good.

But I don't know the result because I never landed a hit on the adventurer, I might pass the test.

At that instant *BON* an explosion sound came from my rear side.

As I turn to my back, I saw the opponent of Elfi already fainted on the ground.

And Elfi herself was folding her arms with the expression "Of course this is natural for me/triumph" on her face.

Somehow it also has ended on her side.

「Tsk 」

The man with full body armor that was laying on ground clicked his tongue as he raised his body.

「 Don't get full of yourselves, Brats 」

「」

As I saw his eyes between his helmet slits.

I've grabbed my sword tighter as I felt strong pressure from him.

With such seriousness, I quickly try to see through him but the full armour man walks away.

.....Whats with that bastard.

As I narrow my eyes at his diminishing back, I've handed over my place to the next examinee.



「 The result of the examination will be announced the day after tomorrow. Therefore, please come back to the adventurer guild on that day. 」

With those explanations we're done with our examination.

Perhaps, I can say that from the look of the adventurers, we pass this test.

It seems that you may think it's a pass without complaints when you triumph over the adventurer that is your opponent.

As I felt the gazes from the surrounding adventurers, me and my partner exited the guild.

「 With this our business here today is done, right? Iori, I feel hungry 」(Elfi) 「 Geez, I get it. Let's have some proper meal somewhere and afterward let's return 」(Iori) While having such a talk during our walk.

「 Oi human, to be able to defeat an adventurer with such caliber try to not get full of yourself because of that, ya hear 」

ZUITTO our path is being blocked.

From what I saw, there's wolf ears attached on the head of this bad looking guy — those wolf beastmen stand here blocking our path.

「 I've never felt such things 」(Iori)

「 Haa? Don't make that "Everything has been settled" face, KORA. It'll take me

no time to deal with such cocky brats like you 』

Such a troublesome guy.

Today I'm involved with quite a few troublesome guys, huh.

「Ojou-chan right there is quite a good mage herself, huh. We'll be glad if you could accompany us to our place, alright? We won't do something bad to such a pretty Ojou-chan, ya know? Okay? 』

「.....Hou? 』(Elfi)

「Let's go Elfi 』(Iori)

I've pulled Elfi with me and started walking but she's just tilting her head while letting out her low puzzled voice.

I'll just waste my time handling such small fries like them.

「YOU BASTARD.....! 』

The wolf beastman extended his hand as he grabbed me by the collar.

It's really troublesome.

So its finally time for me to settle this for once, huh.

「That's enough! Such a troublesome one, huh. *NECHINECHI* persistently picking a fight with no reason, what's your problem 』

Then a hand which extended from the side has grabbed the arm of the wolf beastman.

Its a cat beastman woman that wore an eye patch on her right eye.

Judging by her equipped armor that focuses on agility, I've understood the atmosphere she's giving just from my experience.

「O,oi Misha. Stop it 』

A woman that seems to be her companion told her stop but she ignored it while sending her glare toward the wolf beastman.

「.....You bastard again, huh 』

「That's my line 』

「.....Tsk 」

Probably pressured by her seriousness, the wolf beastman clicks his tongue and walks away.

Haa~, she sighed with relief as she stopped her glares toward those guys.

「.....Thanks for that 」(Iori)

「 Don't worry about it. Its just that I really dislike those conceited fellas 」

When I express my graditute to her, she replied those word while snorting.

That man said 「.....You bastard again, huh 」, how many time did they clashed with each other before.

「 A~ah.....did Misha got into a fight with those wolf beastman again 」

「 Shut up. As if I can stay in silence after I see what happens, right 」

Somehow when her pale faced companion said that to Misha, she retorts her back, then that woman give us some advice.

「 Both of you are still new in this city, right? As for what happened just now, try not to involve yourself with those who belong to the wolf beastman. In this city they always do whatever they like 」

「 Do whatever they like.....? 」(Iori)

Are they always picking a fight with everyone like what they did right now, is it?

「 If it turns violent, doesn't the guard gonna meddle in? 」(Elfi) Elfi asked the question that I was about to say

If such problem occurs wouldn't it be better to let the proper organisation to deal with it?

「 You see, that's.....」

「 It's bad to discuss this matter out here. Misha its time for us to go 」

Misha's being pushed by her friend when she was going to answer the question.

Misha said 「 there's 」 as she squinted her eyes.

「 Anyway, try to not involve yourself with those wolf beastman as much as possible and till then! 」

As she left us those words she walked away with her companion.

「 Those wolf beastman, they should be thankful to that cat beastman 」(Elfi)
Elfi muttered by herself as her back faced toward me.

「 We almost..., no its not “we” is it? 」(Iori)

「 The wolf beastman that laid his hands on you, you were actually about to break his arms weren't you? 」(Elfi) 「Aa 」(Iori) T/N or can read as 「Yeah 」

That's true, if he didn't backed off then I would've probably did that.

I don't intend to put my hands on the unrelated people, but if they're trying to interfere with my revenge I won't show them any mercy.

Even if they are an adventurer or the “Death God” himself, if they get in my way I'll surely kill them.

「 Then fine. Now that the registration is over, let's go eat that “Volcano Roasted” right now Iori! 」(Elfi) 「 Haa ~..... 」(Iori)

Well it seems that our stomachs were empty and its about time we eat something.

As I let out a sigh, I try to catch Elfi's pace from behind.

「 ———— 」(Iori)

Just now I felt like someone gazed at me again.

The gaze that I felt just now is different from before.

It was a glare mixed with hostility.

I've turned my sight toward the gaze, but there are just groups of adventurers there and I can't tell which one among those groups.

Either its a pursuer from the Kingdom or from the Maou forces, its an enemy who I don't know at all.

「 It is troublesome, huh 」(Iori)

I followed Elfi from behind while raising my precaution.

Chapter 4: Found It At Last

After leaving the Adventurers Guild we lodged at a adequate vacant inn.

It was an inn with a small bathhouse however Elfi threw a tantrum by saying 「I prefer if it had a larger hot spring though」

The next day.

After having our breakfast with extra charge, we went out of the inn.

Our examination result will be given tomorrow and my requested weapon is not ready yet. Moreover, there's something that I want to do in this country.

The thing which has happened during those thirty years.

About the Labyrinth of Purgatory rebuilt by the Maou.

Isn't there any information regarding Dionis and Lucifina?

Is there any information regarding my other betrayer?

There should be a place where I can investigate it.

By such reason is why I dragged along Elfi whose facinated by the stall and headed toward the library.

Along our way I've notice there's a sparsely amount of the wolf beastman.

Those guys walking while proudly moving those thick arms of theirs, while people on the street seemed to be trying to avoid them.

「 Mu, such self-important bunch 」(Elfi)

「 You're a fine one to talk! 」(Iori)

Not long after that we arrived at the library.



After I pay our admission fee we advance inside.

Its stated in the notice that its not allowed taking something out from here. Moreover the smell of old paper drifts inside the premise too.

The silentness is to that to the extent it makes peoples think there's no one inside.

It's to the extent that the librarian himself is yawning.

From the shelves crammed with books I took out the subject that's related with my objectives.

Because there is something like a newspaper, I took at the one related with these past several years to my seat.

As Elfi said that she needs to look for something she headed away somewhere.

「 Then 」(Iori)

I start to read the book which I brought.

It seems that the Maou forces were inactive from the day I died till now.

Looks like the human forces were dissolved, from the Maou castel being rebuild and the five labyrinths that were partially destroyed there aren't many

events that occurred.

But recently it seems movement begins again.

Because of the damage received, mostly by the humans and demi-humans that lose their place and seem to migrate to the Federations.

As population increased the tourists seemed to be increasing too —

—— when I recall something.

I've once saw a lot of those with tear-stained faces,

「——」(Iori)

At that moment, my ideal from back then comes to my mind.

I've shaken off those wasteful thoughts from my mind and continue to look over the newspaper.

As I expected, all the King Four Devas whom I annihilated seems to be replaced with new ones.

For the time being, it seemed there's a Mazoku claiming itself with a name of "Distortion".

And its stated that having been cornered by the human invaders, the Maou Castel received a partial destruction.

Unfortunately, there was no information related to Dionis and Lucifina.

But if I take into consideration those two capability its not possible if both of them become either the Four Heavenly Kings or the Demon Lord himself. T/N I've change King Four Devas to Four Heavenly King due to better naming sense.

There something not right regarding the "Distortion" after I put together the related information with it.

Regarding the Labyrinth of Purgatory, there wasn't any new information particularly.

It seems like there's no significant change from last time.

It looks like there's no further information that could be found and I was done searching through the books, when I took a glimpse at the newspaper.

My movement halted right after an article that came to my sight.

It looks like the Federation was being attacked by demons a few years ago.

As the adventurers resisted the attack they were gradually being driven to a corner.

At that moment, the wolf beastman came as reinforcements to help the humans.

At that time, the person who led the wolf beastmen was —

「Hear this Iori!」(Elfi)

Suddenly at that time, Elfi who was in her angry state *ZUKAZUKA* headed toward me.

「Don't raise your voice in a library, could you.

.....so, what's the matter?」(Iori)

「You see, there's a lot of books regarding Ortegia but why there's no book about me at all!」(Elfi)

That is, even me myself wouldn't be aware a Maou like her existed at all.

Furthermore, she just became a Maou for a short time.

「 Even though it was just for a short time, but I can't believe this. Even though, there's plenty of thing that I do that can be published into books 」（Elfi)

「 Hee~, and what did you do? 」（Iori)

Aside from that character of her, her ability is reliable.

There should some praiseworthy deeds done by her, right?

「 Like I've won against fellow mazoku in the tournament, like I was able to tame the rampaging dragon race and turn it into my pet, or about how I wrote special edition books about delicious human cuisine, anyway there's a lot of deeds that I've done. Besides, there are various things accumulated inside my head such as my hobby to be aware of, you see 」（Elfi) 「 I guess that would be worldly-minded kind of stuff, right 」（Iori)

Regarding the Maou Ortega who committed all kinds of the tyranny, rather than 『 Elfisuzaku, Turning dragons into her pets and writing special edition books about delicious cuisine 』 of course nobody would write and record her deeds into books.

「Muu 」（Elfi)

「 Leaving that aside 」（Iori)

I show a certain article from the newspaper to Elfi.

「That is ? 」（Elfi)

「 It's my target "That is" 」（Iori)

As expected there's my target here.

「Its just an undetailed article, his whereabouts are not being stated here 」
(Iori) 「.....I see 」(Elfi)

My information gathering has come to fruition.

After we were statisfied with the information we got, we left the library.



I leave the library and walk down the street.

Because its still daytime there are a lot of people.

「.....But, it appears that humans and demi-humans here are able to get along very well, huh 」(Elfi)

Such as the fairy races, the cat beastman and other races of demi-humans can be seen among the crowd, too.

When Elfi saw that, she began to talk while having a distanced look in her eyes.

「Not just with the Mazoku, there's alot of times when the demi-humans start to fight against humans as well. Sometime it even escalated into wars, too 」
(Iori)

Certainly before, the humans weren't fighting only with the Mazoku but with the demi-humans, too.

When I came here, both sides didn't have time for it because of Maou force.

For Elfi who just now saw such a scene it might look strange for her.

The demi-humans were able to get along very well in this country.

There should be a lot of troubles raising regarding differences in culture, even so they still have unity among themselves.

「Considering that, this spectacle can't be denied that it is something amazing though」(Elfi)

—— Coexistence.

「— It is worthless」(Iori)

Toward Elfi words I've muttered those words reflexively.

Unity and coexistence.

I've felt sick just by hearing those words.

Indeed, certainly there's such a thing as “unity”.

From the outward appearance of this city it probably seems to be peaceful.

Therefore, its just that.

Even when spending time together, either it's human or demi-human and what kind of relation they had, in the end only betrayal awaits.

Because of one's desire they don't hesitate to sacrifice their friends to fulfill it.

「.....Iori」(Elfi)

When Elfi seems to want to say something, right when she was about to open her mouth.

Suddenly not far from us, angry screams and a shriek could be heard.

「 It appears that something had happened 」(Iori)

「 Should we have a look? 」(Elfi)

We advance to the scene as we push our way through the crowd.

Before long we discovered the owner of those angry screams and shriek.

「 I-I'm sorry-nya.....」

「 Do you thing that an apology is enough after bumping into me, HAH? Its still not enough sincerity, ya hear me 」

Right there was a cat beastman that had involved herself with a large build wolf beastman.

That cat beastman face turned pale while *GATAGATA* trembling in fear, but somehow I seem to recognise her face.

「 Thats the blacksmith's shop assistant, is it 」(Iori)

If I am not mistaken her name was Nyamel of something ?

From the flow of the story I conclude that Nyamel has bumped into that wolf beastman.

In addition, that wolf beastman is demanding money as an apologise from that girl.

Although a woman is being entangle with such problem, the curious onlookers just watch it without any attempt at doing something to help her.

On the contrary, the women nearby just throw their annoying sights at her.

「 What did that woman think, trying to pick a fight with that wolf beastman.....」

Such voices could be heard here and there.

Hearing those words the wolf beastman *NYARI* let out a broad grin.

「 Are you trying to defy us in this city? Anyone? 」

Toward that words, *ZOROZORO* all the other wolf beastman arrived.

「 Nya, Nyaa.....」

Nyamel started to curl herself and was about to cry.

Despite that, people in this city do not interfere.

Although it turned into such an uproar, even a guard does not come over to handle it.

It appears that, in this city the wolf beastman seem to be the ones running it.

Due to that they make it look as if Nyamel who got entangled with this farce was the one at fault.

「 This kind of attitude really makes us lose face. Should we make you pay with some painful experience? 」

「 Nya.....」

Toward the frightened Nyamel the wolf beastman came closer to her.

It was in state that no one can help her anymore.

「What are you gonna do, Iori」(Elfi)

「.....I won't do anything. As the reason for me to help is.....」(Iori)

Wait.

If I'm not mistaken there's nobody that can help the old man with his work at that store other than this cat beastman, huh.

If she suffers some injury now, there's a possibility that it would affect the production of my sword.

In the worst case, it will cause trouble for my incoming labyrinth subjugation.

「.....but」(Iori)

「Iori?」(Elfi)

I let out a sigh as I stepped forward.

「.....Oi, what do you want human?」

Ignoring the threat by the wolf beastman, I've pulled Nyamel and covered her behind me.

I don't have the slightest concern with their problem, but it'll trouble me if my sword production is delayed.

Because I want to quickly subjugate the labyrinth, so that I can begin to carry out my revenge.

「Isn't this enough already? She already apologized and there is no need to

get harsh with her, right? 』(Iori) 「Hah? You're unrelated with this, human. Get lost!! 』

It seems that my word doesn't go through.

Well then, what should I do?

Should I just let him have some painful experience?

At the time when the wolf beastman was about to lay his hands on me.

「— That's enough. Stop such unsightly behavior in front of public eyes 』

When I heard that voice among the curious onlookers, the wolf beastman that threatened me became meekly at once.

「P-please forgive me 』

As *KOTSUKOTSU* footsteps steadily resonated, a single wolf beastman comes over.

Just by looking at that wolf beastman all the other wolf beastman *PEKOPEKO* bow down their heads to him.

When I looked at the figure of the person who came over, I've opened my eyes wide unintentionally.

— ah!, I didn't expect to come across you this quickly.

Because of that I've covered my mouth to hide a smile that was about to appear on my face.

Wearing a well-starched suit that fits with his body, it was a nervous looking wolf beastman.

As he arranged his light brown colored hair, a preciseness can be seen through from his clothes and hairstyle.

Ah~, finally.

Finally, I've found my first target.

The man who acted as the staff officer for the wolf beastman once.

The betrayer who cooperated to murder me for the sake of a reward.

— Merwin Johannes.

My revenge target is right there.

Chapter 5: Merwin Johannes

Editor:Oscuras

In those days when many nations such as the Kingdom and the Empire were forming an alliance to fight against the Maou force.

In this regard, the wolf beastmen choose to side with the humans.

Around the time after I've defeated three from the Four Heavenly Kings and subjugated the last labyrinth.

It was when I was fighting against the Maou forces led by one of Four Heavenly Kings known as the "Thousand Transformations" *T/N if anyone could fine better translation for this 千変？

Our party was lodging at the wolf beastman base.

During those occasions I've been tricked by a man that belonged to the wolf beastman.

By using the "The Magic Suppressed Barrier" to suppress my magical power and the fragrance of paralysis to make my movements become dull, that lone wolf beastman attacked me in an attempt to capture me alive.

At that time I've used the 【 Magic Break Suppression 】 exeeded my limits and was finally able to seize him as he weakened.

And when I asked him why he did such a thing.

『 Its all because I was being controled by the "Thousand Transformations"』

manipulation magic and currently my life is in the grasp of his hands. In order to live, I need to capture you alive 』

For the sake of protecting the Wolf beastman, I cannot let myself die in such a place. Therefore, that was the reason why I needed to capture you alive.

Is what the wolf beastman named Merwin Johannes said.

“Thousand Transformations” was a Mazoku able to use various types of magic and especially manipulation magic.

And Merwin was being manipulate and came to capture me.

As a result, I pretended to have been caught by Merwin and get closer to “Thousand Transformations” and together with my comrade I’ve succesfully subjugated him.

It ended up without any victims being made and that fact was a decisive victory for us.

Therefore I forgave Merwin.

“Because you were just being used by the “Thousand Transformations”, it was not your fault” is what I told to him.

The matter of betrayal by Merwin who tried to sacrifice me for the sake of keeping his own life I’ve gotten that off my chest, due to his quick witted action we managed to take down the “Thousand Transformations”.

『 Amatsu-san. I’ll absolutely never forget that you saved me 』(Merwin)

Shedding a tear, Merwin said those words to me.

No matter what happens, I’ll absolutely help and lend you my power.

It was not long before I marched toward the Maou castle.

The military forces of the wolf beastman that were led by Merwin to support us who became the numerical inferiority from the overwhelming numbers of demons and Mazoku.

At that time Merwin said.

『 I'll return those favor for saving me back then right now. After this war ends, let us create the peaceful world that all of you wish for 』(Merwin)

While he said that, I know his true feelings that I saw from the 『 Golden Sword of Probing 』

『 "The Maou and Hero are just nuisances and both of them should disappear at the same time" as if I can say that, heh 』(Merwin)

Then he said to us,

『 Because there is Amatsu we won't be able to have a peaceful life, ne~ 』

Luser and others acted like they were unable to understand the meaning of those words, but I understand now.

That they just wanted to hide the betrayal that was coming.

For contribution in subjugating the "Thousand Transformations", that man was treated as a hero of the wolf beastman.

That fellow wanted to kill me who might threaten that position of his.

From the very beginning that bastard never felt a thing such as favour.

He's just all talk.

Probably, I'm sure I had an intention to become something like a RPG protagonist.

The people that had been helped by me will lend their help at the last decisive battle.

To develop such things, everything that I've done was not something wasteful and selfishly, I've expected all of that to be rewarded.

Worthless.

That's how I feel from the bottom of my heart right now.



「 I apologize on the behalf of my friends for the trouble that they caused 」
(Merwin)

As those wolf beastman pulled back, Merwin lowered his head to me and Nyamel.

With a glance it looks like a sincere attitude. The curious spectators 「 Such an admirable person 」 as they admired Merwin.

From this attitude and particularly the wolf beastman, Merwin individually seems to attract their trust to him.

「 The fact is that the wolf beastman had experienced being discriminated in the past. That's why they became oversensitive from that. I'll talk properly to them afterward, could you please forgive them for everything that they did just now? 」(Merwin)

With an apologetically polite tone Merwin said that.

The curious onlookers 「 To make Merwin-sama apologise, how...! 」,as usual

they throw their criticism gazes toward us.

「 O,okay-nya..... I understand-nya~ 」（Nyamel）

「 Thank you very much 」（Merwin）

Merwin expressed his thanks with a pleasant smile on his face.

Then, he turned his sight toward me.

「 I'm really sorry for the troublesome that they caused to you. I'm really thankful to you that had kindly stopped my subordinate 」（Merwin）

After he apologized, with that smile on his face he approached me.

Right after he said 「 Thank you so much 」（Merwin） once again to me.

He brought his face closer to my ear.

「 I don't think you will be able to make a living in this town if you try to oppose us 」（Merwin）

Is what he whispered into my ears.

At a volume that only I heard, Merwin whispered that to me.

「 ———— 」（Iori）

It didn't surprise me at all.

Ah! I already knew it all along.

This was your true nature after all.

「 Then everyone please excuse us for the commotion that we caused 」
(Merwin)

After saying that Merwin left by taking along those wolf beastman with him.

「Are you okay? 」(Iori)

「 Y,yes-nya. Thank you for helping me-nya~ 」(Nyamel)

It seems there's no injury and the money for the errand was not snatched away either.

With this, the material needed to produce the sword was being secured.

「Iori. The one just now is? 」(Elfi)

「 Yeah 」(Iori)

One of my reasons to come over to this town is especially looking for that man.

But I've never thought that we will have a sudden encounter in such downtown, huh.

It really saves me from the trouble of looking for him.

「 On that moment, when I thought that you were gonna kill that man right there I felt a chill 」(Elfi) 「 Actually I've considered that too. But if I just kill him, I won't be satisfied by doing only that.

Besides if I kill him in front of the public eyes, then what I had prepared for him at the labyrinth will be meaningless 」(Iori)

I held down my boiling anger for the sake of future benefit.

Because its not only that bastard that I want to retaliate against.

「.....Nyamel! 」(Unknown)

At that moment, with a terribly panicked facial expression a woman rushed over toward us.

It was a cat beastman with an eye patch on her right eye.

「 That cat beastman is... 」(Elfi)

An adventurer named Misha, the one that we met at the guild yesterday.

「.....Onee-chan! 」(Nyamel)

As Misha rushed over to Nyamel, she embraced her.

「 I've rushed over after I heard that you got involved with the wolf beastman, are you hurt somewhere? 」(Misha) 「 I'm okay-nya.....that man over there saved me-nya 」(Nyamel)

Misha seemed to have noticed my existence when the time comes.

After she separates from Nyamel that woman comes to bow her head to me.

「 Oh! It's you guys the one that saved her..... I'm really thankful to you guys for taking good care of my little sister 」(Misha) 「 Nay.....don't mind it 」(Iori)

It was simply just for my own benefit.

Besides I just received your help after being involved with those wolf beastman yesterday.

「.....First of all, I really want to express my gratitude to you guys. Is it okay if we move to somewhere else first? 」(Misha)

Because there were some curious onlookers left around us.

To keep the conversation from being exposed to the surrounding gazes, we decided on moving to another place.



Thereafter, we moved to the nearby restaurant and continued our conversation.

It appears that, Misha and Nyamel were sisters.

In our conversation I asked Misha if she knew something about Merwin.

「 Actually I'm also quite new to this town, I came here not long ago but 」
(Misha)

With such introduction Misha started to talk.

There was an incident that happened a few years ago, where the demons start to overflow from the labyrinth and exposed the Hot Spring City in danger.

During that time, Merwin who was leading the wolf beastman forces came to rescue the humans.

Ever since, they settled down in the Federation.

Because of that incident, Merwin was being regarded as a Hero.

I've read that in the newspaper from the library because it was written in there.

Thats why I believed that Merwin is in this town.

「 After that, in this town not only the humans but various races gather here right? Just like us. Because there's different customs, sometimes problems occur caused by it 」(Misha)

When that trouble goes out of control, with an intervention by Merwin those troubles are able to be suppressed.

There seems to have been a lot of rude wolf beastman which flowed through the town and Merwin was there to control them.

Therefore, Merwin existence is being appreciated by this town residence.

From the whole stories, in this town you should get involved with the wolf beastman or more specifically Merwin because it seemed there was a tacit agreement regarding that.

「 Just by hearing that it proves he was not a bad guy, but.....Merwin influence is being misused by those wolf beastman to show off their authority in this town 」(Misha)

It seems that Merwin did not just won everyone respect but he possesses a lot of connection with various people.

Not only the Adventurer Guild top brass but even connection with the Federation parliament chairman, it appears that in extrem cases if some incident occurred he was able to crush anyone completely if he wanted to.

「 The guard didn't come back then because of such a reason, huh 」(Iori) 「 Yeah. When it comes to something concerning the wolf beastman, the guard will not be able to do something. If they want to arrest someone, the other party will get arrested 」(Misha)

Now I get it.

Thats why those Adventurers said that the matter regarding the wolf beastman was something taboo, huh.

「 If there is something that troubles both of you. You can consult it with me. I will do what I can to help 」(Misha) 「Understood 」(Iori)

To help.....huh.

Leaving some ambiguous answer, we parted right after that.



After that, we came back to our inn.

I've taken a breather after I dropped on my bed.

「 That wolf beastman named Merwin, it appears to be one quite a bothersome foe, huh 」(Elfi) 「 It doesn't matter to me. I'll hunt him down till I'll kill him 」(Iori)

However, I will not make my move hastily.

Firstly, I will carefully analyse his movements and attack somewhere he won't expect.

Somewhere like the Labyrinth where there's no people around, and if I could I want to have some proper 『 Conversation 』 with him though.

「Leaving that aside 」(Iori)

Elfi who sat on the bed next to me turned her gaze toward me.

「 Don't eat on the bed. If you want to eat then go to your own room 」(Iori)

Elfi was in my room although I already reserved rooms for two of us.

MOKYUMOKYU as Elfi was eating the Onsen Manju that she bought on the way.

It was cooked with steam and its a food similar to steam buns on earth.

It was bought in large quantity on our way back to inn.

「 It's really troublesome to move. Hey! While we're both on it, let's eat together should we? 」(Elfi) 「.....Haa~ 」(Iori)

To keep sleeping outdoors right after we went out of the labyrinth, it seem my body keeps accumulating fatigue.

I should consume some proper meal if I want to keep my physical conditon in top form.

While I breathe a sigh, I received a steam bun from Elfi.

「 After all its nice having someone as a companion to eat together with 」(Elfi)

Thus, both of us were *MOKYUMOKYU* eating the Onsen Manju on the bed together.

Chapter 6:Absurd

The next day.

I've gathered a bit of information regarding Merwin last night.

For the time being, I've grasped the place where that bastard lives.

Its only a matter of timing about when I'm gonna go there.

For now I put it on hold, theres some important business I got to do for today.

Because today is the day when the result of the adventurer examination comes out.

Coincidentally it was the same day that I need to meet that old man.

Today I need to pay my visit to both the Blacksmith and the Guild.

I'll go to the blacksmith first.

It makes me excited slightly, wondering how the item turns out to be.

The sword which I use now is good enough, could not ask for more than this.

When I go outside it's crowded with people as usual.

But the whole town seems to be more lively than yesterday was.

「 Say Iori. Is it not somewhat noisier today? 」(Elfi) 「 Yeah. Probably something happened? 」(Iori)

Before long I've come to grasp the source of commotions.

「Extra, Extra!」a shout could be heard as a newspaper is being distributed in the middle of the town.

As the subject of the commotion that was made by people who walked in the town entered my ears.

「Oi, is this article seriously true? The Kingdom Labyrinth of Hades has successfully been subjugated」

「Oh! A while ago, it seems that the Kingdom has formally announced it. Moreover I heard that the corpse of the Earth Demon Lord is being displayed magnificently in the royal capital」

「It's a Cave Dragon, right? It should be several times bigger than the common ones」

I see.

Finally the Kingdom, announced the subjugation of the labyrinth to the public. It was about time the news reached this place.

「The one who took down the Earth Demon Lord is the Kingdom most powerful mage "The Great Mage" Luser Gilban!」

「It's a legend who fought the Maou force together with "Hero Amatsu", right? Its been a long time since I've heard his name, I thought his ability has declined by now」

「Probably with this the other countries will start to move and subjugate the other Labyrinths.

For the Federation, it was about time for the guild to send the adventurers to subjugate the labyrinth, right? 』

「 It looks like we're gonna follow after the Kingdom, huh 』

“The Great Mage”, hah?

It seems like that Luser was really important to the Kingdom.

Even after he caused such blunder he has been given an achievement more than the punishment that he should deserve, huh.

I wonder if that right arm that he just lost will be considered a wound of honor, heh.

「 That man really did some meritorious deed? It is slightly unpleasant. Although this is just a slightly violation but finally the time has come 』

It's surely not interesting.

Nevertheless, in the end the only thing that waits for that man is only regret, despair and death.

You should cling tightly to those false merits to the utmost right now.



Then after ten minutes we finally arrived at the blacksmith.

「 Welcome-nya~! 』(Nyamel)

In the same way as before, Nyamel came to greet us right after we entered the shop.

「 Ah! The customer who helped me back then! 』(Nyamel)

Right after she saw my face, poof, a smile appeared on her face as she rushed over to me.

With her flapping cat ears she looks more like a dog rather than a cat.

「 Thank you very much for yesterday-nya. I thought that I was gonna die when I got surrounded yesterday-nya 」(Nyamel) 「 Speaking of the cat beastman, weren't they fast with their feet? You should just ignore and flee from those bunch 」(Elfi) 「 Huh? Is there something wrong with your head oh miss customer? 」(Nyamel) 「 There's nothing wrong with my HEAD! 」(Elfi)

When Elfi is complaining about Nyamel, someone has come out from the inner part of the shop.

「 Oh, Isn't it my little sister's benefactor? 」(Misha)

It's not that old man but Misha the adventurer.

「 Is Misha-san working at this shop too? 」(Iori)

「 Its just Nyamel who works at this shop and I just occasionally help out a bit, ya see. Generally I do adventurer jobs and I accidentally dropped by the shop today because of my job 」(Misha) 「 I see.....Has it been a long time since you've become an adventurer? 」(Iori)

I can guess it just by looking at Misha's refined movement.

Agility is the cat beastman characteristic and those agile can be seen through from their fights.

「 Actually I've just started being an adventurer a few years ago. Well, by becoming an adventurer I've done quite an amount of fight 」(Misha)

「 You insolent one! 」is said by Elfi who gets in trouble with Nyamel and while Misha saw those scenes she narrowed her eyes while muttering.

「 Before I've come to this town I've been living in the cat beastman village. It was nearby the Empire, but it was dragged into the war between humans and Mazoku. Unfortunately the village was attacked by the Mazoku. Therefore, for the sake of protecting everyone it can't be helped that I needed to learn how to fight 」(Misha) 「As usual, the Maou forces don't discriminate, huh 」(Iori)

Except the people from their own kind, they really are ruthless toward other races.

Although Ortega didn't restore yet, the Maou forces begin to move in various place.

Although there are no full-scale wars, but the small scale skirmishes occur frequently.

The village of Misha would be swallowed in it, too.

「In the end, we couldn't live there anymore and had no choice but to run away from there. As both me and Nyamel kept wandering around looking for somewhere to start our new lives, both of us finally arrived in the Federation 」 (Misha) 「 Thereupon you've decided to become an adventurer, right? 」(Iori) 「 No, actually, during those time I didn't know my way around or what to do after arriving to this town. However, this store old man picked up both of us and taught us various things. He even provided us a place to live 」(Misha) 「 He..... surely such a kind man 」(Iori)

「 Yeah, I'm really grateful toward him 」(Misha)

What was that old man really up to by using these cat beastman?

For a moment I had such thoughts in my mind and I breath a sigh to forget.

While having some conversation with Misha the door that connects to the inner side of the shop opened and the mentioned old man appeared from it.

There was a sword in the grasp of his hand.

It's a sword which was made from a demon stone that includes high concentration of magic from the body of the Earth Demon Lord.

From its blade that seemed to emit radiance, moreover I can feel the presence of magic concentration drifting around it.

「I've pushed myself to the limit creating this one. Take it」

As I received the sword I can feel its weight being transmitted to my hand.

However it's neither too heavy nor too light and is the proper weight for me to handle it.

The moment when I grip the sword I can feel the magical power flowing into me, that makes me become light.

「Did you notice that, it's a magic bestowal item — the magic sword. You can feel the effect just by grasping it」

In addition to its peerless sharpness it has high magical power conductivity.

In addition to it, the sword manifests its power in the state where I “stand firmly on the ground”

「“The Magical Power Protection” and “Body Reinforcement”. Moreover it has the ability to draw power from the ground/earth, that will restore user magical power little by little」

「Hou~, isn't it quite a good sword?」(Elfi)

Unnoticed by me, the curious Elfi who came to my side said those word.
Certainly the sword came out more splendid than I imagined it would be.
It isn't strange for a normal shop to be able to build a mansion if being provided with a considerable amount of money.

「 Amazing-nya.....」(Nyamel)

「 It's to the extent I want one for myself too 」(Misha)

Both Nyamel and Misha faces show some astonishment right after both of them saw the sword.

「 How much is the charge for you smithing this? 」(Iori)

Just by creating only this.

It isn't strange if it will cost me a considerable amount of money.

Regarding the money itself, I might be able to pay it off because I stole a considerable amount of money from the Kingdom.

However, when my hand was about to reach my pouch the old man stopped my hand.

「 I don't need it. I have no intention to put a price on that sword because I won't charge you anything for it 」

「But that 」(Iori)

「 Besides I've heard that our idiot was under your care once and this is my thanks for that.

Just receive it already 」

Like that, the old man pointed at Nyamel using his jaw.

And in response to that Nyamel bowed her head to me.

「 Please just accept it as my gratitude to you 」

「I understand 」(Iori)

「 Because its not just some mere cheap stuff. Then its been decided that we're gonna use the money that should be used for the sword to buy some sweets with it 」(Elfi) 「 No thanks 」(Iori)

After I bowed my head to the old man I put the sword on my waist belt.

I can feel considerable weight from it.

「 It's a sword which contains the power of earth. You may call it "Long Sword of Jade" 」

Long Sword of Jade.

It has a sharper blade than that treasure sword which has been broken during my fight with the Earth Demon Lord.

Still, I don't want to expense this one as a bullet for my "Magic Break"

「 Which reminds me that both of you are gonna get your test results, right? If you're going to the Guild, is it okay for me to tag along? Because there's something that I need to do 」(Misha) 「 Sure, why not 」(Iori)

I've just obtained a really good weapon.

Anyway my next destination should be the adventurer registration.

Finally I will be able to step into the labyrinth after I'm done with the

registration.

Apart from that, there's a place where I have one more business I need to finish.

「.....Oi!」

It's when I expressed my thanks and was about to get out of the store.

When I was going to follow behind Elfi and Misha who went out first I was stopped by the old man.

「 The Demon Crystal that you brought contained quite an amount of magical power in it. I'm sure that it is not some ordinary cave dragon right 」

「 Err well 」(Iori)

「 There was an announcement made today, that the Kingdom labyrinth has been subjugated. From what I know the defeated Earth Demon Lord was.....a cave dragon 」

「 — That's? 」(Iori)

While I was trying to play dumb the old man sent his sharp gaze to look through me.

I don't want to harm you since you made a weapon for me.

But if you're trying to get in my way than you leave me no —.

「 Nay, just forget about it 」

But the old man shook his head and did not pursued further.

「 Leaving that aside I want to say my thanks once more. Regarding the one who I consider as my grandchild 」

「When both of them just arrived in the Federation you took care of both of them didn't you and why did you do that? 」(Iori)

Although it's some irrelevant story to me.

But it piqued my interest as to why did this old man did that.

「It's been around 30 years ago if I'm not mistaken. It's during those time when the war between humans and Mazoku was at its worst. Even this Federation was under attack by the Maou forces. Well during those time I was helped by someone 」

「 Someone.....? 」(Iori)

With a cherishing expression the old man told me.

「 Yeah. Its probably someone you might refer as “Hero” now days. He risked his life in order to protect a stranger like me.That time I asked him “why did you helped me?” 」

「So what did that man replied to you? 」(Iori)

「 ”I helped you because I wanted to do so” Is what he replied to me 」

Then, the old man told me.

「 When I saw both of them in trouble back then, I helped them because I just felt like I wanted to do so. That's all 」

「———」(Iori)

「.....Well its probably that I just wanted to find someone to replace my resigned shop assistant」

By turning his back to me the old man told me that as if he's trying to make fun of me.

「 Could you tell me your name? 」(Iori)

「 It's Zoorutsu 」

After saying that, the old man went back into the inner part of the store.
As for me who was left, I opened the door and left the shop.

It was some unfamiliar name to me.

However, I felt like I have a memory in which I once said such thing.

「 Whats with....."I helped you because I want to do so", hah 」(Iori)
.....Absurd.

However for some reason,why did I felt some hesitation.

Nevertheless, with this, it was a good story in itself.

Chapter 7: The Blazing Malice

Along the way to the Adventurer Guild.

As expected from Misha, with her impressive agility she was leading our way while avoiding the crowd.

I've become a bit curious about how far did she go with her adventurer status.

「 Misha-san what is your rank in the Adventurer Guild? 」(Iori) 「 Me?I'm probably a B rank 」(Misha)

「 Although you just became an adventurer, you're already at B rank? You're really amazing, you know 」(Iori)

Adventurers have their ranks.

Starting from A rank at the top to the E rank in the bottom.

In other words, it appears that Misha is the second rank from the top.

「 In other words, it appears that Misha is on the second rank from the top? 」 (Elfi) 「 Yeah thats right. Because one needs adequate ability in order to become a B rank adventurer 」(Iori)

For the image of the rank, A ranker is a skillful warrior while B ranker is a competence and C ranker is a full-fledged, isn't it?

I can say that Misha is plenty amazing herself because she managed to rise up to B rank.

Its just a human standard after all, in many cases they can't stand a chance when dealing with a strong Mazoku or demons individually.

「 Because no matter how hard I try to become an A ranker, its still a long way to go for me, though 」（Misha）

You might say that the adventurers ability can't be measured just by their ranks because not only the individual strength but the teamwork is important to cover each other weaknesses in a party.

「 Leaving that aside, from what I saw , both of you during the examination battle were really amazing. That was an instant kill for both of your opponents, right? During those times when I took my examination I wouldn't be able to win if they didn't hold back, ya know 」（Misha） 「 Fufun~. Of course such riffraff isn't my match 」（Elfi）

There she goes becoming self-important again.....

Well thats for certain,aside for me right now, Elfi in her current state should have ability beyond A ranks.

While doing such talk, we have arrived at the Adventurer Guild.



「 Oi! Whats the meaning of this! 」（Misha）

Enraged Misha throws her fist on the counter.

Causing a receptionist body to *BIKURI* tremble in response to that.

The examination results for me and Elfi.

“Both of them have failed their examination” was conveyed by the receptionist.

Faster that both of us can respond to that, Misha's already enraged toward

the receptionist.

「 Th.....this is an official result given by the judge 』

「 Both of them managed to defeat their opponents during the exam, right!? Its even the adventurer whom I was not able to defeat. But if both of them were able to do so don't you think its strange for them to have failed!! 』(Misha)

The receptionist is making a frightened expression toward Misha who had yelled at her.

It wasn't her that gave the evaluation for those exams.

It is hard to think that those result would change even if we complain it here.

「 Oi! Shut your trap you cat beastman. Because their failure isn't related to that, no? 』

「 What did you say.....you bastard! 』(Misha)

「 Misha-san. Please just leave it as it is 』(Iori)

As the huge man who wore a full-faced helmet which sat in the seat makes a complaint to Misha in a low voice.

I stopped Misha that tries to persist her complaint with the expression such as not being convince at our guild examination result at all.

It suppose both of us should be the one's that feel unsatisfied about this. T/N: This sentences mean that it should be Iori & Elfi should the one who feel unsatisfied Judging from the reaction of Misha and other adventurers, our fight here would just get worsen.

It is clearly suspicious that we had failed.

That's right, for an example.

It's like somebody had totally failed our examination intentionally.

「 Hah~just accept it Misha. Both of them failed and it was a decision made by the guild official judge, right? Besides you want to lodge a complaint based on what? Just for some quibble, hah? 」

Suddenly from our back a wolf beastman said those words to her.

The man who picked a quarrel with us when we were leaving the guild on the day of the examination.

「 Gordon, you bastard..... 」(Misha)

As Misha scowled at the wolf beastman.

It appears that this man is called Gordon.

「 I see. So “That” is the reason, hah 」

「It seems to be 」

I was able to make a rough estimation when I heard that we had failed.

The reason why we failed, it should be that Merwin has been pulling the strings behind the scene.

According to what I have heard, that man has been solidifying his standing in this town.

It isn't funny if there was some guild staff connected to that bastard.

At the time when I helped Nyamel he left a remark 「 I don't think you will be able to make a living in this town if you try to oppose us 」

Well, what happened now was probably such a thing, I guess.

「 Too bad it looks like both of you didn't have luck this time, no? Well no matter how many times you're gonna take the examination please try your best at it. You might say that, it doesn't matter how many times you're gonna take it.....you will not gonna pass, no? 」

Before Gordon went away he left those words.

The guild fell silent, as half of people just overlooked it and the other half scowled at the back figure of Gordon.

「Forgive me. It's all our fault 」(Misha)

Because when I helped Nyamel, it's also when we caught Merwin's eyes on us.

Misha bows her head as she said so.

「 Nah, don't worry about it. As for you, you shouldn't have been rude to that clerk either 」(Iori) 「 But.....」(Misha)

「 It didn't bother us at all, because becoming an adventurer is not our reason for coming here anyway. It can't be helped if we couldn't become one, there's someone who is pulling the strings behind the scenes 」(Iori)

Nonetheless, this matter surely has become a troublesome one for me though.

Because to enter the labyrinth we will need permission from the guild.

It can't be helped that I need to think about it and put the means to enter inside by force.

「 Ah that's right! It looks like a few days ago the 『 Labyrinth subjugation 』 was

recruiting people.

If both of you need to enter the labyrinth at any cost then you should participate by enlisting.....」(Misha) 「 Even if we did that, it will be meaningless if those wolf beastman are gonna hinder me again, right? 」(Iori) 「.....」
(Misha)

Now, what I'm gonna do about this.

Suddenly, the time when I was ready to plan something about it.

「 Is Misha here!? IT'S A DISASTER! 」

While we were still in the guild, a man rushed in.

If I'm not mistaken (s)he was one of Misha's comrades.

With such an awfully panicked appearance (s)he call out Misha's name.

「 Rua. What happened? 」(Misha)

「 I don't know what had happened! But it's disaster! Follow me at once! 」
(Rua)

Not understanding what had happened, a puzzled expression appears on her face.

However, her expression is frozen instantly.

「 —— Your shop is in big trouble! 」



A terrible smell drifted on the street.

As black smoke rises to the sky.

A large number of curious spectators gazed at a single shop from distance.

As we pushed our way through, we finally arrived at the Blacksmith.

It was a dreadful view that was spreading out in front of us.

The Blacksmith was blazing up by fire.

As the crimson red flames scorched the shop.

「 Are those Healer still not here! 」

「 Before the fire is gonna spread call off those water mages quickly, now! 」

Such voices are heard from the onlooker.

「 AahHH.....Nyamel, GRAMPS!! 」(Misha)

Nyamel and Zoorotsu who sufferd burns are collapsed next to the shop.

Nyamel has some slight injuries but Zoorutsu suffered a severe burns all over his body.

At this rate the after effects may remain even after using the healing magic.

Seems like they had lost their consciousness, both of them didn't move even an inch.

「 Please pull yourself together! Oi,Oiii! 」(Misha)

As Misha lost her calm she shakes both of them restlessly.

「.....It's all right, they're still breathing 」(Iori)

It was a severe burn but if they're being given immediate treatment they will certainly be fine.

Somehow Misha had regained her composure as both of them are being given first-aid treatment.

As the rushed healer finally arrived, right after that "it" happened.

「.....Iori 」(Elfi)

Ahead of Elfi's line of sight.

With his bare canines Merwin sneering figure can be seen along with his fellow wolf beastman.

Nodding his head in satisfaction while watching the blazing shop, he sends his glance toward us for a moment before leaving the scene.

「.....It seems like there is something we need to do first before the labyrinth, huh 」(Iori)

As the once Blacksmith makes a crumbling sound.

A black smoke was rising to the sky from the blazing shop.

Rising high toward the high skies.

Chapter 8: Retaliating

Before long, the burnt down shop had its fire extinguished by using water magic.

The fire was extinguished by the rushed guards and adventurers that were able to use the water magic, thanks to that, the damage to its surroundings is almost zero.

However the shop is completely reduced to ashes.

Everything that was left inside has been burned completely.

It was revealed that fire magic was the main cause for the fire that burned down the shop.

Moreover it seems that the flames started from the inside of the shop itself and finally spread through the entire shop.

But it is obvious that this fire has been created artificially.

No doubt all of it was the work of Merwin's henchman.

Fortunately, both Nyamel and Zoorutsu didn't lost their life because of that.

At present both of them are admitted to the hospital of the Hot Spring City.

Nyamel who was protected by Zoorutsu only got some light injury that left a small scar on her.

However it didn't go well for Zoorutsu.

At the time when he covered up for Nyamel, he suffered some major burns in compensation for his actions.

Even if healing magic is used, the aftereffects of the burns will remain afterwards.

There's some possibility he will get healed if he's taken care by some advanced healer, but it is something impossible for those girls who just lost everything along with their home to afford that.

Finally Nyamel had regained her consciousness, but she will need to stay at the hospital to receive further check ups just for caution's sake.

However Zoorutsu has yet to regain his consciousness.

After both of them got sent to the hospital.

We needed to go to the hospital for verification and we did that after we finished dealing with the shop aftermath.

We enter the room where Zoorutsu is being hospitalized after we visit Nyamel.

Misha is sitting on the chair right beside Zoorutsu bed whom still lies idle on his bed.

「Forgive me for all the trouble.....」(Misha)

「Fun~ It's no big deal after all 」(Elfi) T/N "Fun" = "Hmph"

「Like what Elfi said. Please don't mind it 」(Iori)

Misha has a dispirited expression on her face.

A few hours ago she had some relieved air but now, as if being haunted by the Death God itself there's no sign of life in her eyes.

In her trembling voice, Misha said something without facing us directly.

「.....During your guys absence Merwin came over to this room 」（Misha）

「 Excuse me for disturbing you Misha-san 」（Misha） with a bouquet in his hand, there's several wolf beastman that Merwin had taken along with him during his visit in this room.

Toward the Zoorutsu who has yet to regain his consciousness, Merwin floats a forced pitiful expression on his face.

「 It was a very unfortunate thing what happened this time, wasn't it? I express my deepest sympathies for what had fallen upon you. I do not know whose act it is but its said that the main cause is being hit by some magic, isn't it? It was a really regrettable thing to happen. For magic to hit a shop.....for Zoorutsu-san the owner itself or some shop assistant whose was still in there, don't you think it looks like there's somebody bearing a grudge on someone? 」（Merwin）

Is what he said.

As for Misha who couldn't think right she was about to hit Merwin.

However she got restrained and pinned to the floor by a bunch of the wolf beastman who were standing behind Merwin's back.

「 Gosh! That's was scary. With such attitude that is quick to resort to violence, no wonder there's someone who would bear a grudge, isn't it? Next time,it probably won't end with just some burns, no? 」（Merwin）

Merwin left after he mentioned that.

In short, that was a threat.

For Misha who often had conflicts with the wolf beastman.

Probably Merwin intended to say that if she was going to mess up with them anymore it wouldn't end merely as this next time.

Despite the fire ending up to such degree, fortunately there's hardly any damage that spreaded to it's surroundings and this is probably because Merwin has made some necessary preparations beforehand.

「.....It was gramps who picked us up when we had nowhere to go. When we almost collapsed from hunger he's the one that gave us some food to eat and not just that, he even provided us some clothes and a bath. He'll give jobs to us because he said that he got no worker to help him around the shop 」(Misha)

While keeping her head down, Misha keeps talking while tear drops can be seen falling.

I can see how grateful they were toward Zoorutsu who had helped them.

「 Even though I've been planing that.....I want to return back all those favors. Moreover, if it's the case that they can't stand me ,why didn't they just lay their hand on me directly.....! Instead why did they drag Nyamel and gramps who are unrelated with all of this.....」(Misha)

As Misha laments this, she fling her fist against a desk.

Even though her eyes were gloomy, her pupils emit a glaring light.

Misha who gasps for breath violently was covering her face with her hands for while.

「 Sorry for losing my cool. Though both of you had trouble yourselves to pay a visit.....but if you guys don't mind, may you return for today? 」(Misha) 「.....I see. Let's go Elfi 」(Iori)

Together with Elfi, we were about to leave the room.

Right before the door entrance.

「 Say Misha 」（Elfi）

Elfi looked back into the room.

「 Don't let your emotions screw up your decisions. Because you want to protect someone who is precious to you and stay with them, don't you? If that's the case, then don't ever take your eyes off from them 」（Elfi）

At the same time when the door was about to make a closing sound she left some words.

「It is only the ones who lost everything that would extract revenge 」（Elfi）

I did not know whether Misha could hear what Elfi had muttered over the door.

「 Shall we go? 」（Elfi）

「 Aa 」（Iori） T/N 「 Aa 」（Yeah）

First of all, let's start with cleaning those loitering and snooping around trash?



As the sun fell, night came to the Hot Spring City.

The streetlights that are installed all over the place light up the city in a dazzling manner.

However there are still some places that it can't light up.

For example, in an alley.

As there isn't a single streetlight here, its being covered by the darkness of the night.

Even if there's any light made by fire, it wouldn't be noticed by anyone as there's just a little pedestrian traffic tonight.

As he proceeded into the deep dark alley, he noticed nobody was there.

「Hi,Hiiii」(Gordon)

In such darkness Gordon fell on the ground.

As he let out a shriek after he saw something impossible.

For them to be easily deceived like this ———— 。

Today, there's one order being given by Merwin to them.

It was to watch the movement of the raven-black hair boy and the girl with silvery hair.

Afterward together with his comrade he needed simply to tail and watch their movements.

Those stupid human won't even notice that they're being tailed by wolf beastman who're skilled hunters.

Therefore he thought it should be an easy task as usual.

The shop of "that" cheeky cat beastman has already been reduced to zero by Merwin.

For Gordon who wasn't able to stop his laugh at the figure of Misha which cried when she saw what happened to the people who were inside the shop.

"It's all because you're trying to defy us" he wanted to sneer personally at her.

In such a high spirits he got an order from Merwin.

There was no problems during the halfway of the task.

However the problem started after both of his targets entered an alley.

The boy with raven-black hair and the girl with silvery hair.

The communication from his friend who was following them into the alley broke off.

Therefore he went to see if some problem occurred.

Immediately after he stepped into the alley, Gordon movement got halted as his foot was pierced to the ground by a sword that was sent flying out of nowhere.

Because of the acute pain that he felt, he became unable to grasp what happened.

The next moment, he and his fellow friends saw some crimson light and they got forced to prostrate themselves on the ground at once.

「 Fumu, they got easily baited, huh 」(Elfi)

Before they knew, the eyes of the girl with silvery hair shine in crimson red.

The time when he noticed that it was a demon eyes no one was able to move their body anymore.

「 Don't make a sound. You can consider your life gone if you speak loudly 」
(Iori)

There's another voice coming.

As if hiding his presence till now, a boy appeared as if he comes out from the darkness itself.

「 You, so you are Gordon, right? 」（Iori）

As the boy enquired while looking down upon Gordon whom is still stuck by a sword.

Like having his words stuck in his throat, Gordon is only able to nod his head in assent.

「 Is it an instruction from Merwin to have you following us? 」（Iori）

As he got asked in a deep toned voice.

「 That's right 」（he replied some vague answer, then silently ——

「 Guu,GAhaaa!? 」（Gordon）

The sword in his foot was twisted and it gouged out some of his flesh.

When he was about to raise a scream, his mouth was grabbed and it was a situation where he was unable to call for help.

「 Listen I'm gonna ask you just one more time, you hear. Did Merwin gave you the order? 」（Iori） 「 Hii~ T-that's right! It was an order from Merwin-san! 」（Gordon） 「 Why did Merwin instruct you to tail us? 」（Iori）

「 Like hell I know! We merely obeyed his instructions! 」（Gordon）

It was the truth.

Gordon is only being instructed to do some monitoring job.

He isn't even being told the reason why they need to do so.

「 I see. Where is that Merwin now? 」(Iori)

「 A, at his Mansion. He probably should be in his Mansion! 」(Gordon) 「 Right there, huh..... 」(Iori)

While the boy murmured in a low voice he pulled out the sword stuck in Gordon's foot.

He felt like letting his scream out as it was done in such a violent way.

「 Well then, there's one more thing. Are you the one who burnt down Misha's shop? 」(Iori)

It was an emotionless voice.

Neither anger nor sadness are felt from it.

It was a fearful feeling as he can't predict or grasp what the owner of the voice is thinking.

「 Ah, that's right..... B, but it's not us who burnt that shop! It's the other guys who did that on Merwin-san instructions! 」(Gordon)

With that he receives glares from his comrades that is still prostrating on the ground.

But seems like it can't be helped.

With his wounded foot.

He was in situations where he has no ability either to oppose nor escape.

It was better for him to talk obediently rather than get himself killed.

With his expression, it's a better choice for him to do that, that next instant his expectation have failed him.

「 Your role is over. Elfi, erase them 」(Iori)

「 !? E, erase!! You're joking, right!? 」(Gordon)

Even the wolf beastman besides Gordon turned pale as they become frightened.

The boy had a faint smile appear on his face when he saw them in such a situation.

「 I wonder why there isn't any figure from the bunch that chased us earlier? What do think had happened to them? 」(Iori)

Gordon looked around the alley in response to those words.

There's some dirt like charcoal remains on the ground.

He thought it just a mere dirt.

But, that's impossible——!

「 —— Say, why don't you verify the answer with your own body 」(Iori)

The next moment a crimson flash flickered.



「 It seems that was all of of them because I don't sense any presence in our surroundings anymore 」(Elfi) 「 I understand 」(Iori)

There no one else in the alley.

Only remains of ashes that scattered around.

I want to retaliate and don't want to commit murder.

However I will show no mercy for those who become a hindrance to me,

because there isn't any reason for me to show sympathy toward them.

With this, every single one of those bunch that followed us have completely been exterminated.

Afterward.

「I just need to dispose the foundation of trash」(Iori)

Under the cover of darkness, we went to the mansion of Merwin.

Chapter 9: The Trap of The Wolf Beastman

Beyond the Adventurer Guild and the Inn there's a residential district and Merwin's mansion is located at the most inner part of that residential area.

The wolf beastman always go in and out regardless of night or day.

Moreover, it appears that the majority of the wolf beastman in this town are Merwin's followers.

In addition to his abilities that have enabled him to win them over and the main reason itself, probably because Merwin himself is being regarded as a Hero of the wolf beastman that had defeated the "Thousand Transformations", the being known as one of those "Four Heavenly King" from back then.

Therefore, since they were aware of the evil deed that had been committed by Merwin himself such as the arson incident, those followers of his had no room for their forethought.

In the middle of the night we advance through the residential district under cover of darkness.

In order to make sure there's no eyes witnesses, we use the Presence Interception Magic to hid our presence and luckily at the moment there's no pedestrian so far.

Although we need to be extremely cautious while making our moves.

Even if there is evidence remaining, we got Elfi's demon eyes on our side that can perfectly burn it to nothingness, it will be troublesome if there's an eyewitness to be left afterward.

「It's here. Surely its a huge mansion, huh」(Iori)

With a soaring huge gate, there's wolf statues standing on both of its side.

Moreover, stone paved road leading toward the entrance, there's a fountain located at the corner of the well maintained garden.

It's a remarkably huge mansion that stands out especially in this residential district.

If it's just this, it would look ordinary. But something conspicuous was that the guards and devices guarding the premise are being equipped with magic items.

Its not just the gate and the statues, magic items are also camouflaged and embed in the fountains.

If we sneak in carelessly it might detonate and we may get caught in the explosion.

It's really troublesome to some degree.

「 In comparison to the Maou Castel itself both the facilities and the security here is no better than a miserable shack! 』(Elfi) 「 It was obvious, right? 』(Iori)

This was nothing in comparison with the dungeon.

Well...for the security it's surely 『 troublesome in its own way 』

But it isn't so difficult to trespass.

「 Elfi. I think you understand it and please try to not let your guard down 』
(Iori) 「 Of course 』(Elfi)

From the start we were already watched by Merwin subordinates since before we started any of our moves.

Although Merwin just barely met me in the town once.

It's the matter of possibility after all, but it will become a bit troublesome if

my guess was right.

「 Let's go 」(Iori)

While invoking the Presence Isolation we approach the mansion.

「 ——"Magic Usurpation" 」(Iori)

Natrually, magic items are operated using magical power.

So by scattering the flow, its inner magical power would have disfunctions.

But if I completely shut it down, there's a risk it would expose us to the enemies, if I just stop the flow for a few seconds they wouldn't notice it.

Finally we safely got into the mansion after we easily broke through the magic items used by the guards.



The magic items are being installed in several places around the mansion.

I pass through after I've disable it with the help of the magic stone.

There are few guards inside the mansion, it seems the security inside is mostly being entrusted to the magic items.

The tracking ability of the wolf beastman is a bit troublesome, because of that I used Presence Isolation, I won't be noticed unless the enemies were using Searching Magic.

There was nothing extraordinary inside the mansion except the magic items that were installed in it.

The surrounding did give an impression of cleanliness to it, they sure clean it throughly, huh?

As I follow signs of life, I've kept looking for Merwin's figure.

「.....」(Iori)

It's up to this point.

That is why I have to procede carefully.

Naturally I should consider who I retaliate against and because of that it should be done indiscreetly.

I wonder if that bastard feels relieved with security of these degree?

Before long we finally arrived at Merwin's reading room.

However, there's nobody inside.

I turned my eyes toward the desk but there was no significant documents on it.

「..... Iori」(Elfi)

After a while Elfi discovered a basement.

There's a mechanism on the floor that opens the passage to the basement after putting some magic in it.

「Elfi. If by any chance something occurs, I'll be leaving it to you」(Iori) 「..... Try to not get carried away, okay」(Elfi)

As we exchange our glances we both descend the stairs which lead to the

basement.

A light source is placed on the wall at equal intervals and for some reason it reminds me of the labyrinth itself.

「H-hey lori. Don't leave me behind」(Elfi)

「.....?」(lori)

While I looked puzzled toward Elfi whose glued herself to me, I proceed decending the stairs.

There's a chamber spreading out beyond the stairs and it's your stereotype under mansion basement.

It is quite wide, too.

After we finally decend the stairs we arrive at a great chamber, it's a pitch-black room where there's no light.

However there's a lot of presences from people and magic in there.

If that is the case,"Victory goes to the one who makes the first move".

「————」(lori)

I was gonna set my attack at the same time when I've breakthrough it.

As I was about to try and use my magic I've noticed something unusual.

My magical power was suddenly being sucked out from my body————。

「lori ——」(Elfi)

The moment when I noticed it, suddenly wind blew toward me.

As a counter to that I drew my sword and repelled it.

At the same time Elfi, who stood right next to me, had her head flew into the air.

The wind blades had cut her body into pieces.

DOSARI with a thud Elfi's torso fell first to the ground first before her head did.

「.....! 」(Iori)

My internal magical power has completely disappeared.

I had fallen on my knee after being attacked by the feeling of nausea caused by the lack of magical power When I look toward my foot, I saw there an engraved magic formation shining in bright red.

It lost its radiance after its target magical power dissapeared.

「Barrier 」(Iori)

「 That's the right answer 」(Unknown)

PACHIPACHI as clapping hands resound, light illuminates the chamber.

There were more than one wolf beastman facing me.

「 I prepared and waited because I thought that it was about time for you to come over 」(Merwin)

Merwin said that with a broad grin on his face.

「It's been a long time, Amatsuki Iori-san~」(Merwin)



Just by seeing it roughly, I realise every single one of them is an adventurer ranked from B to A rankers.

Each five of the wolf beastman individually had higher ability than the knights whom Luser had led before.

With the wolf beastman standing on both of his sides, Merwin addressed me with his spiteful tone.

From the nuance he called my name, it clearly shows that he already knew my true identity.

「.....How did you know that I would come?」(Iori)

「You see, there's an acquaintance of mine from the Kingdom that told me I need to be cautious」(Merwin) 「..... Luser, huh」(Iori)

It is an expected answer.

From the existence of the wolf beastman that tailed us, I was able to make my prediction to some extent from it.

When Merwin noticed our existence.

In addition to it, for Luser who knew precisely the whereabouts of Merwin.

In other words these guys have some kind of relation with each other.

「Your movement was being monitored by my men at all times and it seems that they already have been disposed of, because there's no contact from them till now. It is very regrettable for them」(Merwin)

Contrary to his tone, his expression shows no concern about it.

From the beginning it seems that party was no more than just a sacrificial pawn for him, huh.

「 Your appearance has changed greatly, Ah! Certainly there is a shadow of the former you on it. I never expected that after thirty years I would see that disgusting face once again 」(Merwin) 「 You too, I felt relieved, that character of yours didn't change, it remained the same, you know 」(Iori) 「 Yes, fortunately it didn't after all 」(Merwin)

KUTSUKUTSU stifled as Merwin laugh.

「 Because it is you, if we burn the shop of those wild cats or you can say those cat beastman, I was expecting that you would come here on the same day, you know 」(Merwin) 「The reason why you burned down Misha shop is just to lure me, huh? 」(Iori) 「 Yes, of course. Well...she herself was quite an eyesore and to some extent I have already warned her before. Moreover, by making these nuisances disappear, I managed to lure you, too. Its just killing two birds with one stone, no? 」(Merwin)

Suddenly I remember the words of Elfi “You should choose your friends wisely”.

It seems that people sure don't change suddenly.

From the time when we fought together this bastard already had this rotten character since the very beginning.

For both of us that were unable to join the guild it was his provocation toward us.

As long as he is here, it means that no matter what we do, we won't be able to achieve our purpose.

「——“The Magic Snatcher Barrier”. How did it feel, having your magical power being sucked dry? 」(Merwin)

KUTSUKUTSU Merwin laughs as he is watching me who can't move because the lack of the magical power.

The barrier.

It was Merwin favourite or specialised magic from way back then.

During thirty years ago when he entrapped me back then, this bastard was using a similar barrier too.

Like what Merwin called it, its known as “The Magic Snatcher Barrier”.

It should be an Advance Barrier Magic that requires some essential training beforehand.

The device to make the barrier should be placed somewhere.

Probably in the backside area of this chamber.

It was something that continues to function until its target magical power is exhausted.

It seem it has finished purpose of completely absorbing my magical power to exhaustion.

It doesn't seem that the effect of the magic stone is taken away but the minimum magical power is needed to use it.

I won't be able to use the magic stone if I'm being completely out of magical power.

「 But I'm really disappointed. Although I've prepared this barrier for that partner of yours, she's already dead before having her magical power being

snatched away, ne~ 』(Merwin) 「.....You bastard 』(Iori)

「 Oh my! Doesn't she move? It seem like that you were able to keep a bit of your composure to some extent, not? 』(Merwin)

Merwin laughs disgustingly as his finger pointed at Elfi who lost her head.

It's a provocation.

But as expected, I'm unable to move my body which has lost the magical power.

Though I can't move yet, I had my hand grasping the handle of my sword.

「 Ah! That's right.——"Fireball" 』(Merwin)

「 Tsk 』(Iori)

Flame is being shot from the hand of Merwin vigorously.

Although I parried it with my sword the scorching heat had burned my skin.

「 This.....is it you, the one who burnt the shop? 』(Iori)

「 Who knows, Hmm...I wonder 』(Merwin)

「It seems to be someone else, the one who that did that. Answer me 』
(Iori) 「 That's funny. Next time I'll burn you like that shop personally 』(Merwin)

Soon after declaring that, a fireball comes flying in succession.

It was impossible for me to parry it with just a sword.

While I'm in such condition, the wolf beastman are giving a whistle and enjoying themselves.

But it won't last for long.

When the fireball almost hit me I've rolled on the ground.

「 So unsightly don't you think? If the former you saw that, no doubt he's gonna let out a sigh, no? 」

Merwin sneered at me while halting shooting off his magic.

「YOU BASTARD!! 」(Iori)

「 Oh! “THAT” is it. By looking at that facade of a saviour face that you make, it is really making me sick. But, that expression that lacks composure fits you better 」(Merwin)

Even if I was about to collapse I won't ever to lose my grip on my sword.

I glare at Merwin while gripping my sword.

「 Watching the looks of humans when they are about to perish, no doubt their expressions would be a masterpieces, ne~ 」(Merwin)

When Merwin said those words his body was trembling and he finally laughed not being able to suppress it anymore.

The humans to perish?

「 Soon, after Maou Ortega regains his power back. When that happens, all humans will perish 」(Merwin) 「 Do you intend to change sides to.....Maou side? 」(Iori)

「 I just follow the one with power because I don't plan to die yet 」(Merwin)

Does his comrade know about that already, too? Because those wolf beastmen don't seem to show any unrest among them.

「 The first target would be here—— The Federations. When that happens we will be assisting with the invasion and enter the Maou forces openly 」(Merwin)

「..... In that way are you going to sell others again as long as you survive? 」(Iori)
「 Huh? As for me, oneself is the most important-neh. Is there something wrong with that? 」(Merwin) 「.....」(Iori)

「 Well, that's fine. Shall we end this now? Let's wish that the ghost from thirty years ago departed forever right here 」(Merwin)

After declaring that, Merwin turned his arm toward me again.

「 Well now, are you ready? 」(Merwin)

He doesn't seem to want to talk any more.

It's an opportunity.

「 “Fireball” 」(Merwin)

As the fireball comes flying at me.

Countering that, I

「 ——“Magic Usurpation” 」(Iori)

Invoke my magic.

After confirming that the power of the magic decreases, with the sword in my grasp I cut it easily.

「 WHAT.....!? 」(Merwin)

In front of the surprised Merwin, I rise slowly.

As I manage to hit the fireball, I don't receive any great damage from that.

The power decreases sharply because of the magic resistant robe and 『 Magic Bracelet of Defense 』 effect.

「.....Your magical power is supposed to be exhausted by now 」(Merwin)
Since a little while ago, I was gripping the 『 Long Sword of Jade 』in my hand.
One of its effects is, as long as the holder foot sticks to the ground it will to restore the holder magical power little by little.

Now I have little bits of magical power and most of it was restored during our conversation.

「.....BARRIER! 」(Merwin)

Merwin raises his arm and as he tries to invoke the barrier.

However, the barrier doesn't activate.

「 Whats the meaning of this.....」(Merwin)

「 What happened? Is the device malfunctioning? 」(Iori)

「 Damn.....don't get carried away because you might lose your life from it.....! 」(Merwin)

Merwin snapped his fingers.

As he was giving a signal to the ambush that was waiting on the back side of the room all along.

But nobody comes out.

「.....Why does no one appear!? 」(Merwin)

Finally, Merwin has lost his composure.

Because the traps he prepared are completely broken.

「 Have you not noticed it yet? 」(Iori)

「 What is it.....? 」(Merwin)

It seems that he was too concentrate on harassing me all along.

Regarding Elfi's headless body with her severed head that once lied down on the ground.

Either of it is nowhere to be seen now.

「 You may come out Elfi 」(Iori)

「Umu 」(Elfi)

「 HAH!? 」(Merwin)

As the door which leads to the back of the wall is opened, Elfi's figure is revealed from inside of the door.

Her head which should've be cut off is still connected and there's not a single wound that could be seen, too.

Merwin looks at Elfi with an expression like he's seen a ghost..

「 Because Iori told me to be cautious, I've pretended to be killed intentionally. And there's no reason for those dozens of mongrels to just stand there and wait, huh? 」(Elfi) 「 Ah! That's bad. I'm happy that we will be able to have some honest fights from now on, no? 」(Iori) 「 Wh.....wha? 」(Merwin)

Elfi only has her head now.

All other parts besides that are just an alter ego body.

Me, who was cautious regarding Merwin, had Elfi playing dead to distract his attention and I had been asking Elfi to deal with those traps that he had prepared for us.

It seems that Elfi has successfully destroyed those barriers after I had taught her various ways about how to deal with it.

With this, only Merwin and his elite wolf beastman remains.

「 Well now, are you ready? 」(Iori)

With Elfi joining up with me, I've pointed my sword at Merwin.

Chapter 10: Reap What You Sow

The number of enemies is six people.

Not to mention Merwin, even the other five, I won't let any of them get away easily.

「 Do not get too cocky.....Amatsuki Iori 」（Merwin）

The standby wolf beastman stepped forward as Merwin gave them the order in high spirits.

「 To do whatever you please even though you're just some inferior species 」（Merwin）

「 I do not know what kind of magic it is, but try to not get full of yourself just because you had killed those guys that were waiting back there, you hear? 」（Merwin）

「 A pair of trash who couldn't even become adventurers, heh 」（Merwin）

「 Unlike that old geezer, I'm gonna burn both of your bastards completely till none of your bones nor your remains are left behind 」（Merwin）

As four of the wolf beastman readied their weapons and one of them to be remain to protect Merwin.

Apparently, it appears that guy is something like their last trump card.

With a roar, the four beastman begun their charge at the same time.

They have cut down their distance in the blink of an eye, while moving in coordinated movement.

Because the wolf beastman belong to the races that are good at hunting, their movement is quite keen and nimble.

「 ——”Heavy・ Gravitation” 」(Elfi)

Despite just seeing the gravity produced by Elfi for the first time, they are able to dodge it.

Moreover, those guys scattered themselves separately in this wide room.

「 That fast——!? 」

I've slashed at the landing spot of one of those wolf beastman who aimed to jump there.

Although the wolf beastman tries to block it with the hatchet in his hand. But, that hatchet drops as I swiftly cut the wrist that was gripping it.

Then return the blade to cut off both his legs.

「 Gah, ArGhHHHH!? 」

My hand has adapted with the Long Sword of Jade more than I've expected.

Thanks to the “Body Reinforcement” the effect that I receive from the sword and “Body Reinforcement” that I invoke by using the magic stone, my body felt two times more lighter.

「 Humaaan! 」

One of the four wolf beastman readied his sword as he was approaching me.

「 “Sand ▪ Creation” 」（Iori）

As I've created sand using the magic stone, simultaneously

「 “Whirlwind” 」（Iori）

I've brought forth wind and blew the sand in my palm toward the approaching wolf beastman.

As the wolf beastman received the sand with his face, he had his sight disrupted and because of that his movement stopped.

By using that as my opportunity, I've cut off his leg to restrict his movement.

「 Leg, MEeee LEG ArGHHHH !? 」（Iori）

Meanwhile, the other two of the wolf beastman are approaching Elfi.

Because they thought she was a mage, probably they think of winning by drawing close to her.

But that was a bad move.

「 This fellow.....wasn't she a mage!? 」（Iori）

「 How could she move.....! 」（Iori）

Elfi dodges the synchronized attack from both of the wolf beastman easily.

Even though she has a long-distance attack by using her devil eyes, more than that Elfi also has excellent physical ability herself.

「 Don't underestimate me you mongrel 」（Elfi）

She evades the weapon of the wolf beastman skillfully and during those interval she uses small scale “Complete Destruction Explosion” as her counter attack.

It seemed that rather than getting close and getting exposed to the danger posed by the demon eyes, as aspected the wolf beastman move was to jump aside to avoid it.

「Guh, ——”Fireball”」

「“Rock Bullet”」

As both of them took some distance to invoke their magic.

The fireball and bullet of rock is being shot simultaneously.

It’s a bad move.

By invoking magic they had to stand idle for a moment.

「—— Sit down!」(Elfi)

That instant, Elfi crushed both of the wolf beastman along with the magic that they shot.

Right after both of them had bend down to the ground, thier bones were making “MISHIMISHI” creaking sound.

「GaaAAhHH!?」

「GoEeEEH」

It seems that several bones have been broken as both of the wolf beastman couldn't move any more.

With this, it's impossible for the four of them to fight anymore.

After that, its those two turn.

「Y-you go suppress those two! While I get out from here! 」(Merwin) 「WHA!? M~ME! Merwin-san but that!? 」

The wolf beastman was frightened with the figure of Merwin who tries to run away by himself and the figure of his defeated comrades.

Thus, Merwin starts running toward the wall which was in the rear.

Merwin was a type of mage that supports at the rear.

Because he's not a type who bears the brunt in a fight.

It appears that part of him never changed till now.

Tries to abandon his comrades and escape at full speed.

「Are you making fun of me by turning your back? 」(Elfi)

By using her demon eyes, the leg of the wolf beastman that was going to follow Merwin exploded.

The wolf beastman who just lost his leg is flopping on the ground.

「What? What had GaaahH!? Please help meee~ 」

As the wolf beastman grabbed the leg of Merwin who had ran ahead of him.

「Tsk, didn't I told you to hold them up.....! 」(Merwin)

As he separated forcibly by landing a kick at him, Merwin finally reaches the wall of the room.

By cladding his hand with magical power he touches the wall.

In the same way as the entrance to the basement, the path was opened when he poured magical power into it.

Do you think that I'm just gonna let you slip away?

「The leader shouldn't leave his comrade behind, ya know 」(Iori) 「Eh!? IgyaaAAaa 」(Merwin)

The spare sword which I threw pierced the palm of Merwin who touched the wall.

Merwin let out a scream as his hand was stuck to the wall.

「Finally, I've caught you 」(Iori)

I approach him quicky and throw him to the ground.

To make sure that he cannot run away, I stepped on one of his legs.

Thanks to the physical reinforcement, I can break off the leg of Merwin easily.

「Eh!?.....nOArGHh 」(Merwin)

Merwin shed tears and fainted with foam on his mouth.

「Get up 」(Iori)

He finally came to his senses after I've broken off his other leg.

It'll be troublesome if you are worn out this easily.

Because the revenge has just begun.



With the lost of their limbs, the six wolf beastman are now immobile.

I dragged everyone and gathered them at the center of the chamber.

「Sorry Elfi, I need a little bit of time 」(Iori)

「I don't mind. Please do whatever you want 」(Elfi)

Elfi moves to watch from distance and keeps an eye on them to ensure neither of them behaves in doubtful ways.

I entrust her to kill them if there is any funny business showing.

「I think all of you already understand that I'm gonna kill you after this 」(Iori)

Hii and scream broke out from the bunch who lies on the ground.

Merwin usual composure is gone, replaced only by a frightened expression on his face now.

That's likely.

Because no one likes to die.

Even I didn't like that.

Because I was deceived, betrayed and then killed, me myself didn't like being told the reason why I had to be killed.

「 But I'll feel sorry to slaughter all of you, if you do as I say I might reconsider it 」(Iori) 「 Wh-what I need to do 」

「 Please tell me! I'll do anything! 」

They took the bait wonderfully.

「 The first thing is. The Zoorutsu incident, Does the guy who burned that blacksmith's here? 」(Iori)

The moment when I gave up the question, the one who raised his voice first was the wolf beastman who was going to escape shortly after Merwin back then.

He was pointing toward the wolf beastman that lies across him.

「 It's him! He's the one that shoot the fireball and burned it! 」(Unknown) 「 Ga-Gail! Don't be stupid you motherfucker! 」(Unknown) 「 Shut up! Ted, You're the one that burned the shop by instructions of Merwin-san! Even a while ago you were shouting that you're gonna burn them like that old man, right! 」(Gail)

Somehow the wolf beastman which burned the blacksmith seems to be called Ted.

As his face turns pale, he fiercely curses at the wolf beastman called Gail who pointed at him.

I've been thinking what I'm gonna do if the culprit was among the ambushers that had been disposed by Elfi. Luckily it seem that he's still alive.

「 I see, So you're the one that did that, huh? 」(Iori)

「 Hii, p~please wait! It isn't only me who has done it! O~oi Franz! You also cooperated with me, right! 」(Ted) 「 Huh? I'm only on lookout for people! It was you, the fucker that had burned it! You always lay the blame on others! Stop it already you motherfucker! 」(Franz)

Ted pointed at his friend again as he tries to put the blame for his crime on others.

The wolf beastman called Franz denies it desperately and abuses Ted with his words.

「 Actually didn't you cooperate too! Ah! T-that's right. I-in the first place the one who gave the instructions to me was Merwin-san! I just followed that! Therefore, the wrong one is Merwin, so it's all Merwin's fault! 」(Ted) 「 That's right! If you want to kill, then please kill Merwin! Because it isn't our fault! 」(Franz)

As they came to realise it, both of the wolf beastman pushed the sin to Merwin.

Merwin who heard the story till then, floats a dumbstruck expression on his face.

「 All of you.....what are you saying? 」(Merwin)

「 SHUT YOUR TRAP! It's all your BASTARD FAULT! 」

So unsightly.

I can't bear to hear more than this anymore.

「 I see and I really get it now 」(Iori)

「 Hii~!? 」(Ted)

「 P-please wait! 」(Franz)

The person who cooperated and the one that burnt Zoorutsu shop.

I've dragged both of them away to the corner of the chamber.

After that I took out a liquid from my pouch.

Then I poured it on top of theirs head.

「 T-this is 」(Ted)

「 O-oil.....? 」(Franz)

I was also the main reason for that Blacksmith to be burnt down.

Therefore, I'll fulfill those girls revenge to make up for it.

「 To burn the shop and harming those two whom were inside. If the worst comes to worst, both of them might be dead. Although it was an instruction from Merwin,the one who committed it is you 」(Iori)

I create a fire using magic.

Its just some low-level magic that doesn't have firepower such as the fireball.

But it will be enough for those two who had been soaked in oil.

「 Therefore —— There shouldn't be any complaint from you guys if you're about to experience a similar thing, right? 」(Iori)

「 Stop 」(Ted)

「 Waiiiiit 」(Franz)

Ted and Franz.

I set those two who were covered with oil on fire.

「 GyAaaaaAAaaaa 」(Ted)

「 Hout, itzhuuuuouooooaaa 」(Franz)

In an instant both of their bodies were blazing up.

Their screams echoes from the pain of being burnt.

After their screams last for several minutes, its finally turning into a deadly silence.



There's still four wolf beastman that remain in the center of the chamber.

I return after I've disposed those two, the one who drew close to me spoke, it was the wolf beastman called Gail.

「 I've already done what you want! Then, please save me! I~I'm begging you 」
(Gail) 「 Of course 」(Iori)

As my sword blade makes a "Swoosh" sound, Gail's head falls on the ground.

Without understanding what happened, Gail has met his end.

It was a far more better death rather than being burned to death.

Only three remaining.

「 Hiii~!? 」

「 G-Gail..... 」

「 W-why did you kill him!? 」(Merwin)

Well if you ask that, didn't I already said earlier that "I might reconsider it" I've never said that I won't kill, right?

Merwin raises his scream while the other two had their whole body badly "GATAGATA" trembling.

「 Look, in the first place, can you think why did you guys had to go through all of this? 」(Iori)

I throw a question to the remaining two.

I gave a bitter smile unconsciously as their glances say 「 Isn't it your fault? 」

「 It's all Merwin's fault, you see 」(Iori)

「Eh? 」

「 What do you mean by.....」

「 Merwin has betrayed me back then by repaying all my kindness toward him with ingratitude, killing me in return. In short all of this is a revenge 」(Iori)

Those two look at Merwin.

With a gaze that include their anger as if saying 「 because of you 」

「 So your friends dying and you going through all this, its all that bastard fault, you see? 」(Iori) With the pain from their limbs and fear from having their comrades killed, they're already incapable of making a calm judgment anymore.

Therefore by telling them the reason they had to go through all of this, its easy to bend their anger toward Merwin.

「 W-what are you saying.....!? Don't look at me with those eyes! 」(Merwin)

Merwin starts to shout after he was exposed to the anger of his fellow comrades.

But what he did will backfire on him because that will only promote their anger even more.

「 Therefore I will give you guys a choice. It's either both of you are gonna kill Merwin or both of you will get killed? 」(Iori) 「 S-stop messing around! Whats

with that BUuUU! 』(Merwin)

I kicked Merwin who was going to shout and force the choice on those two.

「 Well, what is your choice then? 』(Iori)

In their eyes, there's a glimpse of hope.

Hope to possibly survive.

「 If I'm not mistaken, isn't Merwin a hero of the wolf beastman? Moreover, he's also your superior, right. Aren't they your comrades, don't you want to sacrifice your own life for their sake? 』(Iori)

Merwin turns his uneasy gaze toward both of them.

If these two die, oneself might survive.

The eyes that he turned toward his comrades were disappointing ones and because of that they felt like being betrayed by him.

「 Please let me KILL MERWIN! 』

「 I don't want to die yet! 』

「 Wh.....whaa 』(Merwin)

Merwin was enraged by his comrades who want to sold him out.

「 Who do you think I am? I'm a HERO! The reason why you were able to have your own way in this town is all because of ME! Kill me if you dare! The contract with the Maou forces will be voided, and the wolf beastman will be destroyed! Are you fine with THAT!! 』(Merwin) 「 SHUT YOUR TRAP! Don't spout some of your self-important bullshit, you bastard! 』

「 Because of your fucker's fault we had to go through all of this, ya hear! JUST DIE QUICKLY! 」

Merwin Johannes.

He betrayed me for his own sake.

He tried to sell humans to the Maou forces just to ensure himself and be saved.

In the end, he's just someone that would betray his own friends.

You just reap what you sow.

「 Then, kill him with your own hands. If you do so— —, you understand it, right? 」(Iori) T/N Iori try to bait them by giving them some hope to survive if they kill Merwin.

Both of them jumped at Merwin as soon as they heard those word.

Both of them are aproching Merwin while creeping like a caterpillar and with their uninjured arms they start hitting Merwin barehanded.

In order to survive both of the wolf beastman are hitting and bitting Merwin with all their might trying to kill him.

「 S-stop! Please stop! 」(Merwin)

Merwin resists desperately. However there is no way he'll be able to do anything against two of them by himself.

In the state where he doesn't even have an option to use his magic, he's just left to writhe in agony.

Then, several minutes I've only watched the sight of Merwin being inflicted injuries.



Quite a bit of time has passed after that.

「 Help.....me 」(Merwin)

With one of his eyes crushed, Merwin had his ear teared and some of his flesh being ripped off, too.

Toward Merwin who asks for help feebly, those two just ignore that while still throwing down theirs arms at him.

Merwin would actually die in any second if that continues.

「 It's about time 」(Iori)

Then suddenly a flash of sword appeared from the back of those wolf beastman.

With that,a pair of heads falls and rolls on the ground.

Merwin let out a scream after being bathed in the blood which sprouted out from the headless corpses.

「 You see.....Merwin. Actually, I never wanted to do all this to you because back then you were my dear comrade that had once fought together with me 」
(Iori)

The tone I use right now is completely different from the one that I used before.

I talk to him in a gentle tone as if I've finally regained my presence of mind.

「 You, why did you betrayed me? 」(Iori)

To such me, Merwin replied back with a frightened expression on his face.

「 I was scared. When I thinkif the incident of my betrayal is exposed to someone.

I might lose my standing if my.....betrayal is being know by others.
Therefore.....」(Merwin) 「 Therefore, you had to betray me? 」(Iori)

His treacherous reason is like what I've expected.

In order to save himself he'll kill a Hero in order to hide it.

I complain about it, there's no doubt Merwin will lose the place where he belongs.

「So, even you have various worries too, right. I didn't even notice that anxiety of yours 」(Iori) 「 Eh.....? 」(Merwin)

I said that in a repented tone.

From the puddle of blood of his comrade, I kindly help Merwin to move him out from there.

「 Though being called a Hero, not being able to notice his comrades feelings. I'm just a failure of a hero 」(Iori) 「 A.....Amatsu-san.....」(Merwin)

「 Merwin. How about your wounds, are you okay? Forgive me for being late in coming for your rescue 」(Iori)

Merwin opens his eyes wide after he heard those words from me.

I lower my head and use "I'm sorry" tone as if I regret it.

With that Merwin has an astounded expression on his face as he saw that appearance of mine.

「 Are you.....really gonna forgive me? 」（Merwin）

「 Didn't I said it? Thats, actually I've never wanted to do all this to you 」（Iori）

「 A.....Ah 」（Merwin）

His body was badly trembling as if he was deeply moved right after he heard my answers.

Thus, his tears run down from his eyes like rain drops.

「 Forgive me, please forgive.....me, it's all my fault..... 」（Merwin）

At this moment, Merwin had apologized to me for the first time.

He rubbed his head on the ground while still sobbing in a trembling voice over and over again.

「 I have made.....a mistake! I should not.....do such things to you! 」（Merwin）

——He apologized to me from the bottom of his heart.



「 Ah! That! —— I've always wanted to hear those words 」（Iori）

I'm really satisfied.

Because I've always wanted to hear those words all along.

It was my vow from before.

I want them to be sorry from the bottom of their hearts for betraying me.

Thus, I'll make them admit it by using every means just make them admit their wrong.

Make them grovel and bow their head to the ground and make them apologize to me from the bottom of their hearts.

——On top of that, I'll kill them.

As I was moved to tears I turn towards the apologizing Merwin with a smile on my face.

Then with that face I've took out the oil from my pouch and poured it on him.

「Buu.....eh? wha? 」(Merwin)

Its an expression that doesn't understand what happened.

As he noticed that the liquid being poured on him is oil, Merwin asked me in his trembling voice.

「*Amatsu.....san?* What is..... 」(Merwin)

「Didn't I already told you? That, I didn't want to do this. It felt really disgusting for me to apologize to you, despite all of that being just my act 」(Iori)

「Ee.....eh~? Didn't you forgive me? 」(Merwin)

「I didn't say a single word regarding such a thing, right? 」(Iori)

Then, I've produced a fire using magic and thrust it before Merwin.

While *PAKUPAKU* opening and closing his mouth, Merwin edges back.

Now, with one of his arms not usable while both of his legs are crushed, he has no choice but to grovel on the ground like a caterpillar.

「Hey, do you know? The most painful cause of death seems to be death from burning 」(Iori) 「Hii.....Please stop it 」(Merwin)

「It's gonna be a hellish pain to be burned alive, you know? 」(Iori) 「aaAaRGH! I don't want to die! 」(Merwin)

Even me myself, didn't want to die like that.

Being killed by my friends that I trusted and getting betrayed by the people that once helped me.

I didn't want to have such a death.

「 Oh yes, you're gonna die and its gonna be right here 」(Iori) 「 No.....
NoAAaaAAAaarrRGHHhhhh 」(Merwin)

「 ——GO TO HELL! 」(Iori)

The flame which I threw burns Merwin.

He screams high pitched and is thrashing around in pain as he suffered from the burn.

It was an unsightly appearance ,appropriate for a traitor and he's just reaping what he sow.

His figure which writhes to escape from death looks like a dance.

That dance of the death is continued for several minutes.



Finally, Merwin didn't move any more.

He lost his life while suffering hellish pain.

「 Haha..... 」(Iori)

I made him admit it.

That it was his mistake and fault.

「 HAHAAHAHAHAHA 」（Iori）

On top of that, I've killed him.

I've thrown him into despair while he was holding something like a hope of being forgiven.

It was done, I've finally done it.

「 HAHAAhaHAhahaAHAHAHA 」（Iori）

I've laughed with my voice turning hoarse.

「Iori 」（Elfi）

It was amusing.

It was unbearable amusing.

That's why I laughed.

「 Finally, the first one is down 」（Iori）

Yet there is still a lot of them left, the people who betrayed me.

Each one of them that's left will follow behind Merwin.

「 HAHAAHAHAHAHAHAHA 」（Iori）

Thus my hoarsed laugh echoes through the basement.

Chapter 11: The Clue of The Betrayer

I had Elfi turn the corpses of Merwin and others into cinder.

It can't be helped that the smell of blood and burnt meat have stayed in the basement.

Just in case, both of us had completely got rid of our smell, camouflaging it by rubbing some oil on ourselves because there's demi-humans that have a keen sense of smell.

Because I have disposed of a number of people, it would become a problem as they will be treated as missing people for a while.

We leave no evidence behind and as long they didn't probe into our memories, no one should find out that we did it.

「 Which reminds me, was there a hidden passage on that wall? 」(Iori)

It is the place where Merwin was going to run away to.

There may be something further down.

A pathway large enough for a person appeared after I pour my magical power into it I'll advance ahead after I isolate my presence.

Like any normal escape route, it leads outside.

Simple metastasis formations with each of them connected to outside are laid out in several rooms.

This hidden underground passage and all those devices that he used, he really spent a considerable sum of money on all of these.

Inside the room there was a spot where a magic barrier is being set up.
I break the magic barrier and enter inside.

「 Its like a study room.....in here 」(Iori)

「 So the one above is just a camouflage, huh? 」(Elfi)

The chair, table and the decorated furniture being used look like it would cost a considerable amount of money.

When I browse and search the documents placed on the desk, the shady works that Merwin did were written in it.

The fact that he's connected with the national council seems to be true because there are also several things that show his involvement in it.

「 Fumu, its really pitch black. If this document is brought to light it would cause an uproar 」(Elfi)

If I found this evidence earlier and have scattered it around, Merwin might lose his standing. There was a scenario where he..... falls into ruin, too. By reading it now, it would be useless because I already achieved my revenge.

It will be fine if I leave it alone.

「 Hmm.....」(Elfi)

Elfi is looking through the blank notepaper placed on the desk.

Because there was nothing in particular that piqued my interest, I decided to search through another place.

「 As expected, he amassed a great amount of it 」(Iori)

When I open the safe with magic, there's magic stones in it.

It isn't the one sized like a fist which I have but its about the size of small pebble.

Even so, it should become a considerable amount of money if I realize it.

I've stolen quite an amount of money from the Kingdom already and for the moment money isn't something necessary for me.

「Ah! That's right 」(Iori)

I throw the magic stones into my pouch after a way to use it has come into my mind.

Because of what he did, I'll make him take responsibility by using his money.

Then during several minutes when I search through the room, there was nothing particular that had piqued my interest in this room.

He said that he was connected to the Maou forces, but there is nothing particular related to it.

It was the time when I was done with searching through the room.

「 Iori come here 」(Elfi)

Unaware that Elfi has invoked her Demon Eyes, she called me while holding the blank notepaper in her hand.

For some reason she had a serious look on her face.

「 Is there something wrong? 」(Iori)

「 I've felt some magical power from this notepaper and when I see it using "Demon Eyes examination" there was complex seal used on it 」(Elfi)

By a glance it looks just like some ordinary notepaper.

However, now that she mentions it. Its certainly giving some uncomfortable feeling.

The real nature of this uneasiness seems to be magic.

「 Could you read it? 」(Iori)

「 Yes. What was written in it seems to be related to you, too 」(Elfi)

After she said so, Elfi begun to read the letter.

When the contents are summarized, it'll be something like this.

Somehow the "Hero Amatsu" is still alive and in addition I'm gonna side with the Mazoku and kill him.

Because he might bring damage to the Maou forces if he's being left alone, thats why I will dispose of him myself and I want you to convey my deeds to Ortega.

Then as evidence I'll pass his corpse to you once we meet personally.

I'll be sending my messenger to you.

The name of the recipient of the letter appeared only once in the sentence.

「 His name is 『 Beltoga 』 and it seems to be an underling of the Maou force coming to this town, huh 」(Elfi)

When I heard that name, I held my breath.

「 Nevertheless, that wolf beastman really intended to kill us from the very beginning. Good grief, they really underestimate us.....lori what's wrong? 』(Elfi)

「 I probably know that man called Beltoga 』(lori)

「 What did you say? 』(Elfi)

In those Onizoku, there was the man with the same name.

It was a subordinate of Dionis, that I've talk with just before the last decisive battle.

After that — —.

「 He's one of the betrayers who I saw in the memory of Luser 』(lori)

Perhaps, its just some Mazoku with a similar name and that Onizoku might be a totally diffent person.

「 But if he was that person himself, I will certainly kill him 』(lori)

This Beltoga should probably still be somewhere in this town.

There is also a possibility that he's in the Labyrinth of Purgatory.

Probably he's going to protect the labyrinth together with the Flame Demon Lord because currently the subjugation force is being assembled.

「 Elfi, let's go. It's about time we get out of here 』(lori)

I've obtained my vengeance.

In addition, I even got the clue to my next target.

I couldn't ask for more because it's already bearing fruit.

「 Uh huh, I understand 」(Elfi)

We left the mansion of Merwin under the cover of darkness, the same way when we came.



One day has passed after the Blacksmith was burnt down.

When the sun has begun to rise.

A mage came over to Zoorutsu sickroom where he was being hospitalized by his serious burns.

It is a prominent healer in the Hot Spring City.

The healer has some considerable ability and to acquire his/her service will cost a considerable amount of money.

Misha which snuggled up to Zoorutsu told the healer that she couldn't afford to pay the remuneration.

However the Healer shook his/her head and answered 「 I already got the money by payment in advance 」.

In the end, the healer performed the treatment on Zoorutsu in the presence of Misha.

The severe wounds due to the burn can't be healed just by some Intermediate Healing Magic.

Just as it is, the aftereffects would remain.

However, this healer can use up to the Advanced Healing Magic By chanting a long aria, the healer invoked Healing Magic.

Light pours into the part wrapped by the bandage and heals the burn.

After that.

In just several minutes, the wounds of Zoorutsu have been approximately completely cured.

As for the doctor who saw the wound, it's to the extent that he guaranteed that Zoorutsu can be discharged from hospital whenever he wants.

Misha bowed her head to the healer many times as she showed her gratitude to him/her.

「 Who on earth paid the money? 」(Misha)

The healer answered the question in this way.

「 It is the duo of raven-black haired boy and the girl with silver hair 」(Healer)

Misha which saw off the healer was left in utter amazement.

She let out a relieved breath after she looked at Zoorutsu that was currently sleeping peacefully unlike earlier.

「Hmm? 」(Misha)

Then, she noticed that there's a leather bag which wasn't there till then is placed beside the pillow of Zoorutsu.

When she took it in her hand to inspect it, the weight is being transmitted to

her hand.

「 This is.....」(Misha)

What was inside is a great amount of gold coins and a letter which says 「 Please repair the store with this 」



「 With this our job here is done 」(Iori)

We watched the healer as he/she left the hospital.

If it is that healer, then Zoorutsu will be all right.

After exiting the mansion of Merwin , we have been looking and applied a request for a healer that could heal the wounds of Zoorutsu.

I paid the request using the share of magic stone which I turned into money.

Then, I left all the remaining money in Zoorutsu's room.

With all that, he may rebuild his Blacksmith's.

After all, the main cause of the fire that burned down the blacksmith has something to do with me too.

What I did is no more or less than to recompensate for it.

Moreover, I won't have any problem from it because all of that was Merwin's money, after all that fellow has most of the responsibility in all of this.

Yet, there's plenty of things that remain to be done in this town but the matter related to Merwin has reached its conclusion.

「..... For the time being, Shall we return to the inn? I'm sleepy 」(Iori) 「 I'm hungry. Let's go back and have something to eat 」(Elfi)

Thus we bought some food and returned to the inn.

Chapter 12: The Shocking Hot Spring Time

The next day after the revenge was achieved.

I get up and wash up my face.

My face looks worn-out in the mirror as I still did not fully recover from my weariness.

「 Good morning, Iori 」(Elfi)

「 Aa, good morning 」(Iori)

When I descend from upstairs Elfi has already woke up.

「 How do you feel and did you finally calm down? 」(Elfi) 「What is it? 」
(Iori)

I don't feel particularly sick.

What was Elfi talking about?

「 You seemed to steel yourself since yesterday. Were you able to relax? 」
(Iori) 「Yeah 」(Iori)

「 If so, then it's good 」(Elfi)

After having such a conversation, we consumed our breakfast and left the inn after that.



After that we arrived at the Adventurer Guild.

The reason is to participate in the application for 「 The labyrinth subjugation corps 」

Even if I don't become an adventurer I can participate in the subjugation corps if I pass this application.

I want to join the subjugation corps by all means but I feel reluctant because the adventurers will be troublesome. It seems to be a system that benefits the influential person.

But only this is left for us to enter the labyrinth legally.

We weren't able to become adventurers because of Merwin intervention.

Because I already know the name of the guild personnel that has connection with him, if necessity arises I'll threaten him/her.

It was said that today was the deadline when I applied for our application to the guild female worker.

Somehow or another we seem to barely made it in time.

We'll be tested tomorrow and the successful applicants will be included in the subjugation meeting that will be held right after that.

Anyway, I wrote our names on the application paper and submitted it.

During the time with the adventurer registration we fill the name entry with 『 Iori 』 and 『 Elfi 』

I suggested to use 『 Aori 』 and 『 Porufi 』 for caution's sake. However, Elfi's face seemed to show that she hated it extremely, eventually we end up with those names.

「Humph.....」(Elfi)

I passed each by a man in full body armor in the guild.

From the gap of his helmet, he glared at us with a sharp eyes.

「.....」

.....I need to keep my guard up.

Then we finished with our business and it was the time when we were going to leave the guild.

「Iori-san! Elfi-san! 」(Unknown)

She called out to us with her disturbed breath caused from running.

「.....Thank you very much 」(Misha)

Then she bowed her head deeply.

「.....What is it? Misha-san 」(Iori)

It's something I did anonymously, so I fake ignorance.

For caution's sake I make sure the transaction* to be untraced , ensuring it won't turn into a troublesome matter afterward. TN * converting magic stone to money

Misha seems to have noticed this faked ignorance of mine. But still, she expressed her gratitude many times.

「 Gramps wounds have been cured perfectly. He'll be hospitalized for another day just for caution's sake and he can be discharged by tomorrow.....! Moreover, there aren't aftereffects left, too! 」(Misha) TN the aftereffects probably mean the burn scars

Misha who was brought to tears said so.

「 After you went to the extent of arranging a healer.....yet for the money to rebuild the shop, I couldn't accept it 」(Misha) 「 We don't know anything regarding those money that you are talking about, you see 」(Iori)

However, I keep on my fake ignorance after she said that she wants to return it back It has taken quite a bit of time before she gave in.

In the end, regarding Zoorutsu's shop, it was decided to be rebuild.

Until then, both Zoorutsu and Nyamel will work at some other blacksmith's that refer by adventurer since it has connection with them.

There seems to be a blacksmith who hurt his lower back and because of that both of them will take over for a while.

Until the end, Misha keeps lowering her head many times saying that she will certainly return this favor by all means.

I wonder if those were her true feelings.

At least for now.

However, for oneself anyone will easily cast away things such as favours and betray them.

Therefore I decided not to make any expectations anymore.



After our business with the guild was done, we strolled around the town while eating after we bought something tasty from the stall outside.

「 The egg white is trembling and jiggling while the yolk is creamly and melts it away. In addition to its mysterious texture, the sweet and salty sauce has enhanced the taste of the egg. The hotspring egg was delicious 」(Elfi)

Elfi is narrating her impressions garrulously.

Somehow it seems to have matched her taste.

Despite being a Maou herself, her taste is matched with a commoner relatively.

「 Then Iori. [Belltoga] which you said yesterday, what kind of guy was he? Judging from your reaction he looks like some good for nothing fellow, huh? 」
(Elfi) 「 That fellow is a subordinate of Dionis 」(Iori)

He was called “Flame ogre” and was a man who excels in Fire Magic even among the Onizoku. TN Onizoku = ogre tribes Even if he’s inferior to Dionis, he is quite powerful.

「 He’s the kind of guy that is likely to flatter the strong guys but be harsh toward those lower ranked than him 」(Iori) 「 That’s really typical, huh 」(Elfi)

「 When I met that fellow for the first time, he was also trying to pick a quarrel with me too. But after I showed him my power, he changed his attitude quickly and started to draw closer to me 」(Iori)

But, there was a part of me that was sympathetic toward the Onizoku at that time.

That’s why even though I thought that he was an unpleasant guy, it can not be helped that I needed to accept him the way he was.

I’m neither more nor less than a fool, if I think about it now.

I walk on the back alley of the hot spring city together with Elfi.

It takes me more than an hour walking and searching around before I find what I've been looking for.

After I make some arrangements with the one eye man standing outside the shop that I've been looking for, I enter the shop.

In the documents that I saw in Merwin's office, there was also information about "back business" in this town wrote in it.

We come over to the shop that's handling dangerous medicine.

「 Stink.....」(Iori)

I come to have a headache after I enter the shop that was filled with a sweet smell.

While Elfi frowned and held her nose.

「 Welcome!.....hmmm, it's a surprisingly young visitor 」

The scary looking shopkeeper looks at us suspiciously.

The vulgar expression immediately changed and he gladly heard my request after I show the money.

「 Is there medicine called the nail of the ogre? 」(Iori)

The storekeeper narrowed his eyes at the question.

「Nail of the ogre, it look like there's someone being extremely hated, no.

But you're lucky ones because I've just obtained it three days ago 』

The storekeeper searched through the shelf with a “GOSOGOSO” rustling sound and he brought over the bag filled with transparent powder.

Its a white crystal that make *ZARAZARA* rattling sound that has an appearance near to sugar.

It was obtained from the Onizoku that is living in the nearby area and it a product of crytallization demon material.

I pay the storekeeper and receive the nail of the ogre.

I sealed it securely and locked it in the innermost part of the pouch.

「 Hey, Iori. If I am not mistaken the nail of the ogre, wasn't it a poison? 』(Elfi)

「 Yeah that's right 』(Iori)

The nail of the ogre is a deadly poison.

By consuming it, the target will feel as if there's a small ogre running wild inside of his body inflicting severe pain. That how it got this name.

When an ordinary person consumes it, he will be inflicted by severe pain that will eventually cause his death.

The more nastier is when the one that had consumed it tries to use magic,it will make the organ that deals with the magical power to run out of control and worst to come, the body of the consumer will be exploded.

Because its a crystallized demon product it has an effect that is able to supress the magical power for someone with great quantity of magical power.

「 I was made to drink such poison by the guy who acted like my friend, you

see 』(Iori)

In the memory that I read from Luser, there was the figure of the Beltoga, too.

In the strategy meeting how to killed me, the guy said.

『 I have a plan to kill Amatsu certainly 』(Beltoga)

And that plan was to make me drink the nail of the ogre.

「 what happened afterward, were you fine? 』(Elfi)

「 Fortunately, because there was the power of hero, the only effect it caused is making my body feel sluggish. The fatigue piled up to the extent it ended up making my physical conditions turn bad 』(Iori) 「is that so? 』(Elfi)

I don't know whether the subordinate of the Maou force coming to this town is the Beltoga which I know, but.

If so, I'll kill him using this nail of the ogre.

「Iori 』(Elfi)

When I think about such things, Elfi *PON* tapped my shoulder.

「What is it? 』(Iori)

「 Let's go to the hot spring 』(Elfi)

「 What.....? 』(Iori)

By the flow of our talk, how could it turn to that.

Elfi had an expression which says 「 You really don't get it do you? 」

「 Since we came to the hot spring city, how about we enter the hot spring. Moreover, I've got tired with the bath provided by the inn 」(Elfi) 「 Well thats.....」(Iori)

「 Let's change our current inn with the one that has hot spring, right now 」 (Elfi) 「 Wai, Oi!.....」(Iori)

I'm being dragged by Elfi with that unreasonable strength of hers.

Whenever I'm with her, she always destroys my pace.....



As expected from the hot spring city, there's lot of hotspring inns that exist in this town.

I was brought along to the one that Elfi had her eyes on.

I have canceled our staying from today afterward and arrived while carrying the baggage.

There's an atmosphere of cleanliness that suits such a big inn, too.

When I entered inside, I met a proprietress with a figure similar to a maid.

If I say an inn, there's an image of a kimono, but it mostly a Western-style in this world.

We were guided by the proprietress and came over to the front desk.

From the menus I need to choose when to use the hot spring, which room to stay at, even the breakfast and dinner from it.

「 Two single rooms, please 」(Iori)

「 For meal, include it with two meals a day 」(Elfi)

As she shrewdly sets the meals to suit her preference.

「 About the use of the hot spring, how would you like it to be? 」

「 Is it possible to make a reservation for the bathing time? 」(Elfi) 「.....
Regarding the reservation, what are you gonna do with it? 」

「 There's nothing I'm gonna do with it, as if I can take a bath with some unfamiliar human 」(Elfi)

Well, I understand the feeling.....

「 I am sorry, but reservations are not possible 」

「 Muu 」(Elfi) TN she pouting

「 However, there is a family bath and its a private hot spring, its possible to make a reservation for it 」

According to the proprietress, there seems to be a hot spring provided to the visitors with more than two people.

When the time is decided beforehand, it is possible to enter the hot spring with a family member only during that period.

「.....Still, isn't it bad to enter it with only two people? 」

「 I don't mind it 」(Elfi)

「 But I mind it! 」(Iori)

As I told that I don't need to make reservation, but Elfi herself never yields.

Then if I say that we're gonna look for another inn, she'd throw her tantrum

by saying 「 I'd like it here! 」

In the end, it has been decided that I am going to use the family bathing.

We enter our respective rooms.

I decided to relax in my room because there's nothing in particular that I need to do for today.

With magic in one hand and having done the adjustment of the power for "Magic Usurpation" with the other hand. Then the door is being knocked and the proprietress entered inside my room.

It seems to be time for dinner.

When I went to the dining room with Elfi, our dishes were already being prepared.

「 Oh!..... 」

It was food served in a pot what came out as our dinner.

The meat and vegetables are being put inside the pot made out of stone, simmered and *GUTSUGUTSU* boiled with a red soup that look like magma.

It seem to be called magma hot pot.

「 This bitterness is intolerable! 」(Elfi)

Elfi is eating the magma hot pot greedily while leaking *HAFUHAFU* breathing.

Though you ate so much during lunch, can you still eat that?

「 There's a reason why I need to eat a lot, you know? 」（Elfi）

As if she noticing my line of sight, Elfi told me as she protested.

「 Its because a lot of energy is necessary to maintain my massive magical power 」（Elfi） 「 In other words, whenever you regain the other parts you will become more glutton, right? 」（Iori）

On earth, how much food will she consume if she regains all of her body.

How should I put it, considering the thing that eats right now is nothing just a head.

Its too mysterious.

「 If I regain my body it will become possible for me to adjust the required energy to maintain it, you see 」（Elfi）

While saying that in a unexpected way, she didn't stop eating the magma hot pot.

I become worried whether is it really all right?

After I ate a strange dessert called the hotspring egg parfait after a meal, the time for bathing came exactly after that.



The time for us to enter the family bath is already being decided.

Besides, it can't be helped that both of us need to go to the reception desk first.

After the reception, we headed to the undressing room.

Although it said for family, it isn't that wide.

「 Elfi, first of all we need to change our clothes 」（Iori） 「 Hmm? 」（Elfi）

The clothes which Elfi wore disappeared in an instant, simultaneously with the time when I turn toward her.

I wonder if it was canceled by releasing the magical power that she wore on her body.

「.....Could you cover it a bit 」(Iori)

「 I'm not ashamed cause its just my alter ego body, you know? 」(Elfi)

I overlook my eyes from Elfi and take off my clothes.

I wear a towel on the lower part of my body and follow Elfi which ran earlier.

When I opened the door and entered the inside, it was an outdoor hotspring bath.

It appeared that the skies started to become dark and it seems possible to enjoy the night view as well.

When Elfi's done washing her body she enters the hot water quickly.

After I washed my body with hot water and shampoo my hair. Then clean myself from dirt with the towel that I brought, I've soaked myself in the hot water.

「.....Phew 」(Iori)

Such as entering the hot spring, I wonder when was the last time I done it.

I feel that inside of my body becoming *POKAPOKA* warm.

It seems the hot spring has a good effect for the circulation of magical power.

「 It's quite a good thing, right? 」(Elfi)

Unnoticed by me, Elfi is already behind my back.

I nod with [That's right] without looking back.

I soak in hot water silently while looking at the night view.

「 It was a little unexpected 」(Elfi)

After a while, Elfi began to talk.

「 It looks like you also did quite an extreme thing toward others too, huh 」
(Elfi) 「? ah! 」(Iori)

Is it yesterday?

It should be the revenge that I did to Merwin.

「 It is not that I like to do such a thing. Its just repaying him back for the thing
that he did to me 」(Iori)

Like what they did to me, sinking me into despair and then killing me.

Therefore I promised myself that I'll do the same thing toward the one's who
had betrayed me.

I'm gonna make them regret it.

「」(Elfi)

I heard Elfi exhale deeply behind me.

「 First of all, for today you should soak inside the hot spring and relax yourself. I do not know whether you noticed that today you look terrible, you know 」(Elfi)

It's different from the usual Elfi, I'm anxious with those kind words that she said.

By some chance, did she suddenly suggested that we went to a hot spring, would it be for my sake?

「Elfi 」(Iori)

I turned my face towards Elfi as I want to express my thanks to her.

「 OoOOO!? 」(Iori)

I had reflexively screamed after I look at the things that were behind me.
This is because, Elfi floated on the surface where the hot water boils.

——No more than a freshly severed head.

In surprise, I've jumped back unconsciously from there.

「 Wh-what's with that! To treat others like a ghost 」(Elfi)

Maybe Elfi was dissatisfied because she frowned.

As she *SUSUSU* was sliding her freshly-severed head on the water surface while moving toward my direction.

「 O-Oi! Stay away 」(Iori)

「 MU..... I only cancelled my alter ego body, but that reaction is really upsetting me 」(Elfi) TN Mu= pouting

As she said that while sulking, Elfi head rose from the surface of the water lightly.

Elfi which became only a freshly-severed head floated in the air glaring at me with scornful eyes.

I surely knew that she is no more than just a head, but this is the first time that I see it.

During the time with Merwin, too. I didn't saw her freshly-severed head this much.

By no means it was something really shocking for me.

When I edge back from the freshly-severed head that *FUYOFUYO* swaying, then a sudden magical power was discharged from Elfi's neck.

Then the next moment, the lower part is being constructed.

In other words, stark-naked Elfi appeared in front of my eyes.

「 Didn't I already told you to hide it!! 」(Iori)

「 Because you dislike it, that's why I'm gonna reveal my body!? 」(Elfi)

In the end, I wasn't able to say my gratitude to Elfi after all.

I mean, it is doubtful that she really cared for me.

But it was certainly that I was able to remove a little bit of my weariness.

Chapter 13: The Malicious Nail

It was a story from way back, before either Elfi nor Ortega became a Maou.

In those days, the Onizoku was on the side of the Maou forces.

As subordinates of the Maou, they fought against the hostile races such as humans.

However, in the end after having doubts toward the cruelty of the Maou, the Onizoku left the Maou forces.

After that, they didn't participate in any wars and always took a neutral position.

For that reason, they had been scowled as betrayers by the Maou forces and the human race that were formerly hostile with.

After time had passed by, Ortega has become a Maou.

The Maou forces have committed all kinds of brutality all over the world and the Onizoku left their neutral position and sided with the humans.

Even for me, I wanted them to escape those circumstance of being treated as an enemy by both humans and Maou forces.

As a representative of such Onizoku, Dionis who is the strongest Onizoku has become our comrade.

Beltoga is a subordinate of Dionis.

The Onizoku cooperated with humans several times in clashes with the armies of the Maou forces together.

The Onizoku has high physical ability and high tolerance toward magical power, too.

The achievement of the Onizoku was remarkable.

However, because they were sided with the Maou forces in the past.

The humans mostly disliked the Onizoku like an abomination even if they fought together with them.

They changed their manner and treatment frankly as they discriminated against the Onizoku.

Even if they were with the Maou force in the past, now they are humans ally.

However, I don't like the present conditions of them being discriminated.

Watching them who were trying to change the present conditions by themselves, I thought that I wanted to do something about this discrimination by ensuring me myself from not being dragged by the circumstances too. TN probably lori trying to say that he doesn't want to be influence by other humans to discriminate against the Onizoku.

So, I didn't change my attitude towards them like other humans did and I had mingling with them positively.

But by taking advantage of that, I was being used by Beltoga.



「 Amatsu-San! 」(Beltoga)

It was before we marched toward the Maou castle.

Beltoga came over to the place where I have been preparing for the last fight.

「 If it fine for you, please drink this! 」(Beltoga)

He brought me a potion that it is said to be handed down to the Onizoku and it has the effect to restore fatigue and magical power by consuming it.

「 Amatsu-dono. It's wise to not drink something from unknown origins 」

「 Shall I bring a proper potion for you? 」

While keeping an eye on Beltoga, the surrounding humans frankly gave grimace looks at him while saying that.

「 After all, the thing made by us isn't drinkable.....」(Beltoga) While turning down his face, Beltoga said that with a feeling down atmosphere around him.

When I think about that now, it was all his cheap drama all along.

But I wasn't able to notice it.

「 No, I get it. Thanks 」(lori)

I received the potion from Beltoga and drank it up because I didn't want to show any discrimination toward them.

It's true that I've recover my magical power and fatigue.

However, the nail of the ogre which was a deadly poison was being mixed in it.

My body didn't sustain any damage by the effects of the nail of the ogre.

Its just that my body got heavy little by little whenever I used my magical power.

It only affected me to such degree.

It never come to my mind that Beltoga and the others would try to kill me with poison.

The moment he started to betray me and at that very instant my reaction towards it should have been too late.

With such intention in his mind, that fellow made me drink the poison.

Actually, even if I wasn't made to take the poison, I will be killed eventually because there's not the slightest clue in my mind that I will be attacked by my own comrades.

『 If its that bastard Amatsu, he will definitely drink the potion that I(Ore-sama) gave him without examining it. Just by saying "After all the thing made by Onizoku isn't drinkable....." 』(Beltoga) Since there was an incident where a Mazoku had slipped among the humans, I've certainly been paying attention regarding this matter.

But my cautioness wasn't enough as I've let off my guard easily just because he was my comrade.

I completely agree that I was naive and stupid.

Nevertheless, to ridicule and utilize my good will, it was something I won't be able to forgive.

If its "the one who got tricked is at fault" then.

Ah! I will do exacly the same thing.

Because I only pay back what they did to me back then.



The next day after my application.

The examination for entering the subjugation corps is performed in the guild like what had been told.

Unlike those adventurer application examination back then, I must pass three tests this time.

Firstly, it's the physical checkup performed to ensure the applicants body didn't have any abnormality.

Elfi and I passed it without a problem.

The examination for magical power and combat ability measurement will be performed after the physical checkup.

By totaling both of these evaluations, the results of both test will decide whether you can enter the subjugation corps or not.

At first it is an examination for magical power.

The magical power quantities will be measured by using the "Appraiser Magic Stone".

I line up before a stone and measure the quantity of my magical power in turn.

I touch the "Appraiser Magic Stone" and start pouring magical power.

The color of the stone will change depending on the quantity of magical power that is possessed by the person who had poured their magical power into it.

「Iori-san got an..... D evaluation」

My evaluation was one step short of being the lowest evaluation E.

Its a D evaluation.

In other words, the quantity of my magical power is lower than average and it means that it's only to a degree of being able to barely use magical power.

But if I got an E evaluation it becomes impossible for me to enter the subjugation corps.

「 Hah, an D? Doesn't that mean that the magic ability is approximately a zero? With that, it's no better than just being able to use elementary level magics, huh 」

「 When you didn't get an A evaluation from the battle afterward, you wouldn't be able to enter the subjugation corps, ya'know 」

The adventurers whom decided to join the subjugation corps were watching over the state of the examination.

Those adventurers are jeering out loud at me who got a D evaluation.

Then as if the sound got drown out.

「 Elfi-san got an A evaluation! 」

Elfi who lined up behind my back has begun being cheered because she easily got the best evaluation.

Although, the quantity of her magical power declines because she's using magical items to cover her race. She got an A evaluation.

If her original quantity of magical power is being evaluated, there's no doubt, that stone would break into pieces.

「 That's great Elfi-chan! 」

As the adventures *HYUUHYUU* whistling.

Elfi ignores the adventurers as she turns towards me with a triumphant look on her face.

It causes me to felt slightly annoyed.

Anyway, with this Elfi's enrollment into the subjugation corps seems to have been almost decided.

I must do something afterward.

After this, is the measurement of battle ability.

In the same way as before, the evaluation result is given by the outcome of

the fight with an adventurer.

The opponent was a big man with sturdy muscle.

Just by looking at his trophy axe, he seems to be the type that defeats the other party completely with his pure brute strength.

「It's unfortunately for you, but your evaluation will be an E-ze. Because I'll end it with just a single blow, naa.....!」

While he's boasting with his own muscle, that man said those words as he was taking stance while holding his axe.

He looks like having considerable self-confidence and probably every single one of the adventurers that cooperates with the examination are more than B ranks.

「Then please begin!」

「NUuuNn!」

As soon as the order was being received, a man using the Body Reinforcement Magic is charging at me.

With agility which doesn't suit his huge body, he reduces our distance and swung the axe on his hand at me while screaming vigorously.

「....."Shintsurugi"」(Iori) TN Shintsurugi【震剣】= Thunder Sword

KIN a high-pitched sound resounded.

Subsequently the axe separated from that man hand and fell into the ground.

「Ha.....?」

With an apperance thats unable to comprehended it, the man can only stay astounded with "what had happen?" expression At that instant, I thrust my sword at his defenseless throat.

「Ah!.....」

As he had delayed "Damn!" expression appeared on his face.

After that a stop order is immediately being given, thus the examination came to end.

「.....What had happened just now 」

「 It was a sword art called Shintsurugi, don't you know it? 」

The man shook his head silently.

Shintsurugi.

One of Sword Arts which I self-learned in this world.

Towards the opponents that have more strength than oneself, its a Sword Art that utilizes the oppponent strength to return the shock back against them.

The shock is conveyed through the weapon to the arm of the opponents, that will greatly break their stance.

If one doesn't possess enough skills it will be impossible to dodge the shock.

Well.....because it was a skill that I learned by observing the Mazoku whom had used it,it was reasonable if humans don't not know about it.

After some time has passed, all examinees have ended their examination.



The result of the examination was told orally.

My magical power is D and for battle is A.

I was barely in the passing line.

Elfi got an A evaluation for both of it, 「 It's my win 」 with a glad-look on her face.

Most of the peoples who took the examination have failed half-way.

It is just several people who passed with us.

This time such unfair evaluation has not occured like the last time.

When me and Elfi were probing around, the staff that had connections with Merwin were in disapproval.....regarding my D magical power. But eventually I've been approved in the end.

Actually, I had some plans if I was dropped from this.

Anyway, our participation in the subjugation corps is already decided.

Afterwards we immediately received explanation about the subjugation corps.

The reward will be divided equally.

But the portion will be depending on one's achievement.

The labyrinth core has to be submitted to the guild.

In order to match our pace with the adventures we need to attend the meeting which will be held tomorrow.

There we will receive support items such as potions and weapons from the guild.

You may become an adventurer after the labyrinth subjugation if you want to do so.

About injury and death, the guild doesn't take any responsibility for it.

It is such things.

About the labyrinth core, I will retrieve it by making up a reason such as losing it.

Because it is my reason itself to enter the labyrinth.

I've no reason to do so other from it.

After having received the explanation, I returned to the inn and read the document regarding the labyrinth that had been distributed by the guild.

It was more detailed than the document which I saw in the library.

It seem that these subjugation corps have been organized not only once or twice, but already a considerable number of times a labyrinth subjugation such as this has been carried out.

It ended up with a considerable number of deaths as it was a series of failures, but a lot of information regarding the inside of the labyrinth has been obtained from the adventurers who had survived, too.

I read the document and consult with Elfi about the labyrinth behavior. With that, day has ended.



The next day.

We participated in the subjugation corps meeting.

Dozens of adventurers have gathered.

All of them are expert adventurers as their average age is considerably high, too.

Misha has participated in the meeting too, but even so, she is considerably young among them.

Therefore, naturally, both of us who have an outward appearance of around 16 years old are being isolated.

「 Oi.....Is it all right for such children to participate? 」

After a single person said that right as he saw us, ZAWAZAWA noisily the adventures begun to talk.

「 They don't seem like that to me and according to the story I heard both of them seemed to be quite skilled. They have passed the examination of the subjugation corps 」

「 Now that you mention it, aren't they the one's that failed to become adventurers? 」

「Is that really all right? 」

Many evaluations don't seem to be good, too.

As for that man with the whole body armor, he seemed displeased with our participation.

「 As for those that have saw both of them fighting, you have seen it right? The ability of those two is real 」(Misha) Then, Misha sticks up for us.

「 Gaston wasn't it an instant kill yesterday, right? Then, tell everyone what you had experienced 」(Misha) 「 Ye.....ah. He was surely strong 」(Gaston)

Being called out by Misha, the man who fought with an axe yesterday is awkwardly nodding.

For the time being I'm going to participate in the meeting, although there was a commotion going on.

The review of the document that's being distributed yesterday is being carried out, regarding the characteristic of the labyrinth of purgatory and the method to fight with the demons that will appear in it.

After that, the discussions regarding everyone position was done afterwards.

It seemed regarding the position is already decided in advance to some degree.

Hence without given any chance to speak our words, Elfi and me are being positioned at the rear of the rank.

The intention of 「 I don't expect anything from both of you 」 has been transmitted. Oh well, I have no objection in particular anyway.

Because there's nothing better than to do it leisurely.

After that, approximately two hours have passed and the meeting has ended.

「 Don't drag us down, ya hear 」

The adventurers utter those as they're leaving the places.

Is this because my magical power was D? Though my strikes are way stronger than Elfi.

Well, I do not mind it in particular.

I will have them become a meat shield to the utmost.



The next day.

Finally, the subjugation of the Labyrinth of Purgatory has begun.

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Episode 14: Slash Then Invade

Being just in time.

There was an enormous volcano located right next to the Hot Spring City. It doesn't seem eruptive for a dormant volcano, but in compensation for that, there's a labyrinth inside the volcano.

The Labyrinth of Purgatory.

It is being protected by the Flame Demon Lord (Honoo Mashou) one of The Five Labyrinth Commanders. Inside of the labyrinth is extremely hot and its being inhabited by demons related with the fire attribute.

Like the Labyrinth of Hades, this labyrinth also has some troublesome characteristic, too

It was the heat from magma that flows inside the labyrinth, it can reduce one's physical strength just by entering inside. Moreover, by advancing with caution it can exhaust one's stamina along the way too. Therefore, while one can move, its best to advance as far as possible.

On that day, there's a lot of adventurers gathered in front of the Labyrinth of Purgatory entrance. There's a high-ranking adventurer who plays an active role in the Federations, the mercenaries which came from another country to gain fame for themselves and finally Elfi and myself.

I've performed my final check up on equipment in our designated ranks in front of the labyrinth. Weapon, robe with high flame resistance, health potions and re-hydration drinks that were distributed is stored inside my magic item storage. The country itself also seems to put some effort by providing support supplies that are of considerably good quality. With this, the effect given by the robe then adding the effect of the『Magic Bracelet of Defense』and Long Sword is perfectly matched, it will be able to nullify most of the low-class flame magic and it should be considerably effective against the intermediate and upper grade, too.

Compared to the original amount of Magic stones possessed by me back then,

currently, the amount has decreased considerably. At this pace, it's a matter of time before it runs out. Therefore, I must regain my magical power by then.

「Oi, do you have the proper equipment? Because this is entirely different from goblin hunting-ze」

「If you're going to chicken out, you better draw out from the subjugation corps-ze. Because it better than becoming a drag for others, ya'hear」

During the time I count the remaining magic stone, there're some adventurers trying to pick a fight with me. The people of this world have quite the confidence in their own strength. Because of that, it was something hard for them to tolerate it if there's someone younger standing above them.

Because it'll just become more troublesome if I'm going to attract more attention, I've just ignored it. It'll just pleasing them if I took the bait.

When I thought so.

「I won't allow any disrespecting acts toward these two, ya'hear」(Misha)

Misha came in between us.

Her party members come over to this place from behind, too.

「Whats up with you, Misha? Aren't you surprisingly enthusiastic regarding that guy since yesterday? Could it be that brat, is your man?」

「.....Don't spew such stupid things. With no doubt, these two are really powerful. Way more powerful than myself」(Misha)

「More than you? Well...I've heard that the result of their examination was excellent———」

Then, Elfi who attentively glanced around our surroundings till now sighed.

「You'll get your answers whether we are worthless or not after the labyrinth subjugation is over. However, if you are still alive by then」(Elfi)

The adventures felt damped by Elfi's words which are mixed with sarcasm. It's because Elfi is already known as a someone that possesses demon eyes. After that, the groups that acted like big shots went away.

「I'm sorry. There's a lot of adventurers with a violent temper and they probably got worked up with the incoming labyrinth subjugation. Please don't

be offended by that」(Misha)

「Nay, we're really thankful for what you did just now」(Iori)

「If there is something you need, then just call me out. If it is something regarding those bunch its possible for me to do something about it」(Misha)

And after that, without a reason, Misha's suddenly blushed.

「A-and to say something such as I'm an Iori-san woman, t-that.....Ahh!
Anyway please forget about what I've said.....!」(Misha)

She left the place hastily after she said that with a low voice.
With that Misha's comrades *GERAGERA* laugh at her as they look at her state,
then they chase her after they bow their head to us.

What is it?

「.....then, Iori」(Elfi)
「Ah! Right. How was it?」(Iori)

I hear the investigation report from Elfi who seems to be slightly displeased for some reason. Since a little while ago I had Elfi investigate using her "Demon Eyes of Observation". Whether is there any strange person mixed up with us. If there's someone from the Maou forces coming to this town, there's a possibility they might get mixed in the subjugation corps .

「I've checked it briefly, but I wasn't able to detect any Mazoku magical power. At least there is some demi-human, but I can't find anyone from the Onizoku」(Elfi)

In the first place, it's easy to identify a Onizoku just by their appearance. Also, there's a method to distinction them, it was by their large build and different skin colours. Although there are some men with a large build, however, their build was different from human standards. It's because Beltoga is nearly three meters tall.

「However, there're some people wearing magical items. Because of that, there's a possibility that they might be hiding their race like I did. But either way, we need to keep our guard up just in case」(Elfi)

Certainly, there're some people wearing an armor that can be considered magic items.

There were many people with their faces hidden in it. Among them, there're people that wore full-faced helmets, too.

「Especially, that man who's using full body armour. Moreover, all his armours are magical power bestowal items」(Iori)

「.....That fellow, huh」(Elfi)

It's the guy who I fought at the guild before. I was able to defeat him without any difficulty, but it showed his behaviour quite suspiciously. I'll need to be especially cautious of him.

「.....It's about time」(Iori)

In the meantime, the inspection time has already ended. A representative of A ranks adventures has taken the lead and inspired us. It seems the morale isn't that bad.

「With this the subjugation of the demons inside the labyrinth has begun!」
(Representative)

「「Oooouu!!」」TN literally 「Yeah!!」

After the adventures are done with their cheering, everyone starts advancing towards the labyrinth entrance. The entrance of the Labyrinth Purgatory is a big hole in the rock cliff.

Thus, we set our foot in the Labyrinth of Purgatory entrance.

The hot wind is drifting out from the inside.



In the blazing hot heat, we ascend through the bad rugged hilly road. Unlike the Labyrinth of Hades, for this labyrinth, we need to ascend it from bottom to the top. A little away from the pathway that we use, there's hot boiling magma flowing in a stream.

Both I and Elfi are on the rear of the ranks. It seems that we have been given a duty to protect the mages who became defenseless during performing their aria.

「It's hot.....」(Iori)

「I agree.....My alter ego body is about to melt」(Elfi)

「You need to stop that by all means」(Iori)

Different from the heat of the summer, it was way hotter because we were constantly exposed to the blazing heat.

「Though I have participated in the last subjugation corps, everyone has become completely exhausted by the time we approached about the middle of the labyrinth. Although you have arranged your equipment from earlier, Iori-san please try to preserve your strength, too」(Misha)

Misha's party also carries a similar role to us which is to protect the mages. But it's different from us because their placement was decided by anticipating their abilities. The reason why Misha's approaching us is because she seems to be worried about us.

「What I mean is, when it became where we couldn't advance any further, at least you need have strength to withdraw when time comes because for the ones that are left behind」(Misha)

Misha said that with a bitter expression on her face. As for her friends, they also rub their forehead as if recalling something unpleasant.

「So far the labyrinth subjugation is being forced to withdraw before even arriving at Flame Demon Lord place, ya'see」

「Yeah. The temperature will rise higher when we move further into the middle part of the volcano. In addition, the number of demons will increase, too. As we exhaust our strength, the peoples who collapse will start to appear」

Probably it can't be helped if there're some people that will be abandoned during the withdraw. Even if both Elfi and I don't have any problem with that, this subjugation corps will probably withdraw in the midway, too. If that situation ever comes, we will just need to keep advancing by ourselves.

「Ahead! There're three flame lizards!」

A cry rises from the adventurer who walked at the front. It's a big demon lizard which vomits flames from its mouth.

「HAh, it's an easy win」

The flame lizard is being killed and it seems that the vanguard's adventures don't need any help from the mages, too. With such excellent coordination, the

flame lizard has been defeated in the blink of an eye.

After that, as we keep proceeding, the number of the demon attacking us keeps increasing. The ones that keep attacking us for some time are mainly the flame lizards, the fire loper with high-temperature feeler and the flame rock tiger which had its body covered by magma armor. As expected, the vanguard keeps dealing with it, they will buy time for the mages to complete their aria to kill it.

The demons also came to attack us from our rear, too.
In order to protect the mages, we need to fight it.
However.

「You lot, step back!」

The other adventures shouted at both me and Elfi as they obstruct us and step forward without taking a lot of time the fight has ended. Because it's said that the reward will change depending on one's achievement, that's why they're trying to monopolise it. Misha was complaining about it. But to be frank I was grateful for what they did because it'll easier for me to reserve my strength.

「.....It's about time for me to stop my unwillingness from using it, huh」
(Misha)

It's been a while since the number of demons began to increase. Misha removes the eyepatch that she wore on her left eye. Under the eyepatch was an eye with a crimson pupil that's different from her right one.
It isn't an odd eye.

「Demon eyes are it?」(Iori)
「It's called the "Demon Eyes of Observation" it's a demon eye that can detect the magical power, it considerably lower ranked if being compared with Elfi-san explosion demon eyes, ya'see」(Misha)

It is one of the demon eyes possessed by Elfi. Misha doesn't seem to be able to switch on/off her demon eyes and because of it she just covers it with an eyepatch. Just by using it, it put a burden on Misha's head and eye.

「Are you the one that keeps observing us when we came to the adventurer

guild?」(Elfi)

Misha had a surprised expression on her face at Elfi's question.

「Y-yeah. I'm observing you guys using my demon eyes because I was a bit curious. So I've been noticed.....」(Misha)

The gaze that I felt at the adventure guild seems to have been Misha's. As she seems to understand what I've asked, 「No」she shake her head denying. But the second one that I've felt is clearly harbouring hostility in it.

It was clearly different from the first gaze.

「There's two fire lopers!」

Misha suddenly looked away as if she had detected something with her "Demon Eyes of Observation". There's a red feeler creeping out from the inside of the wall. Misha parties quickly to kill it before it able to make any move to attack. It looks like Misha's party members have good coordination.

.....The comradery between their party members seems good, too.

In addition to the sensing ability of demi-humans and the demon eyes, her detection ability is considerably high because of it.

「That quite a good movement. She's able to use her demon eyes skillfully」
(Iori)

「But I can use it way better than that」(Elfi)

Are you a child?

「Say Elfi. That reminds me, what kind of demon eyes do you possess?」(Iori)

Suddenly I asked Elfi because I felt curious about it.

Generally, a person is able to retain one type of demon eyes with one ability. However despite that, Elfi is able to operate both of her demon eyes equally, Moreover, her demon eyes have three abilities.

「You should be surprised when you hear it. The name of the demon eyes which I have is known as "Demon King Eyes"」(Elfi)

「It's a demon eye that I never heard of, huh」(Iori)

「Of course you don't. In this world, only me myself can use this "demon king eyes". Even for the generations of Maou before me, none of them possessed

those demon eyes」(Elfi)

It seems to be『The demon eyes which dwell in both eyes』, she can properly use several demon eyes abilities with it. Even though the ordinary demon eyes are considerably useful, but with this, her power is on the foul class level*. TN it can be considered as cheats too

Right now it's only up to the third stage. When I fought with her back then, she's able to use more demon eyes ability.

Since then, after taking breaks for several times and nearly than two hours, we finally reached halfway up of the labyrinth.



There's an open space at halfway up of the labyrinth. It's a large open space where all the adventure can take their break. Because there's magma flow nearby, it felt really hot, even more than before.

「Right from this point, it is going to be a “Torrid Region” where the temperature becomes hotter. Take your rest properly till then」

After the halfway up the mountain, it seems the temperature was raised by magic.

From here on it was a crucial moment.

The adventurers are alternately standing as the watch while performing an inspection on their arms. As expected, they were well experienced as they're able to perform it in the blink of an eye. After I re-hydrated myself, I'm taking a turn with the lookout.

「.....Elfi. What do you think regarding the adventurer's movement till now?」
(Iori)

「It isn't bad. However, it's still insufficient to defeat the Flame Demon Lord」
(Elfi)

「.....Yeah」(Iori)

They did well to reach here, however in this labyrinth the higher we go the more powerful demons are we going to run into. It's a monster beyond tsuchigumo. Yet, there's just several of them that inhabits here. However, there's the Flame Demon Lord that possess more strength than rest of them. If they intend to defeat the Flame Demon Lord, I think that it's necessary for them

to double their war potential.

Well, the main purpose of this subjugation corpses is to eliminate and prevent the demon from inside the labyrinth from breaking out and because of that it was more than enough if they can barely fight against the Flame Demon Lord itself.

「———」

At that moment, Elfi's suddenly raises her face as if she has noticed something happening.

Next Misha's shout sounded.

「IT'S AN ENEMY ATTACK! Seven fire loper, five flame lizard and three flame rock tiger!」(Misha)

From the magma, there's a large quantity of demons jumping out from it. As the adventurers readied their stance in hurry, they engage with the attackers.

The came along mercenary from the foreign country are assaulting the swarm of fire loper. Each one of them is showing some quick movement and cutting off the feeler. Their proficiency is quite high, too.

The full body armour and the surrounding A ranks adventurer are handling the flame rock tiger. They have defeated it without any problems, too.

The flame lizard is being defeated easily by Misha's with the cooperation of the mages.

So far there's no problem occurs.

However———。

「.....It's approaching」(Elfi)

Elfi line of sight is point toward the ceiling which starts to shed a red light. Following that, a part of the ceiling melted that creates a hole on it and from there a demon rush out from it.

「Its a Flame dragon!?!」

The adventurer's leaked their voices after looking at the appeared demon.

It's a huge dragon which had its whole body covered by red scales. It is flying

in the sky using its two pairs of wings and tear its prey with sharp talons. In an instant a person turned to ashes and dust after being engulfing by the flame that breath out from its mouth. Those red scales have the ability to repel magical power, too. Among the demons, it's one of the dragon classes that it's being feared in particular.

Except for the Flame Demon Lord, it can be called the most troublesome demon in this labyrinth.

「.....Shit!」

Most of the adventurers are still dealing with the demons which came out and they can't react to the flame dragon. The mercenary who have killed the fire loper flew off their magic, however, the fire dragon simply evade the magic easily by flying in the sky at high speed. Thus, it threw its breath from above the sky.

「UaAaAARGHH!?!」

The mercenaries were unable to defend themselves in time.

「Iori」(Elfi)

「.....Got it」(Iori)

At that instant, the flame dragon breath is being exploded by Elfi's demon eyes. The blast shock wave rages violently, for that instant the fire dragon movement had been stopped.

【Demon Eyes・Heavy collapse】(Elfi)

Then with the applied weight, the fire dragon is being dragged to the ground.

『OoOOOoOO』

However, it's resisting against the weight with that massive figure, it was able to maintain its posture while falling. While getting ready the sharp talon on both of its hand, then it opened its mouth as it wanted to throw away its breath.

「UwaAHHh!?!」

「Run, run awaaay!」

The fire dragon thrust toward the confused adventurers. As the flame dragon

was about to seize its prey it almost descended into the ground, then.

「——”Acceleration”」(Iori)

I've thrust myself right beside it.

I invoke a magic to raise my speed. In addition to physical reinforcement from the 『Magic Ring of Strength』and the effect from the 『Jade Longsword』. As long as my foot is on the ground, the current me now I can move at considerable speed.

I'm approaching the flame dragon at the highest speed just like a bullet itself.

『————』

Noticing at my existence, the flame dragon turned its neck toward me. Changing its target to me, the flame dragon opens its mouth which has a fang that lines up like a sharp thorn, then as it about to release its breath at me.

That instant as we intersected with each other.

On the flame dragon long neck, there's a part where its scales were thin. By aiming at it I cut it off right in the middle of it and with that it finally fell into the ground. The breath which was going to spit out is spontaneously discharged causing its head to explode.

「Shi——」(Iori)

I've been hit by those shock waves, however, I was able to largely reduce most of the damage thanks to the equipment that I wore. As expected, even if I wore my equipment, I would be charred if I took that breath directly.

「It is a lie.....」

「Wh.....what just happen, back then?」

「Did he just defeat that.....flame dragon?」

The adventures which just killed the other demons had astonished looks when they turned here.

Dumbfounded, surprised and fear———.

Did I just go a little overboard?.....as I frown.

During the time when I was a hero, I was being feared whenever I've shown

off my power. Is it a bad choice to protect the adventurers preventing the reduction of their numbers In order to preserve my power as much as possible?

Just when I thought so.

「UooOOO!」

「Wow, that awesome!」

The shouts of joy broke out from the adventurers. Some of those adventurers rushed toward me and Elfi.

「Wow!? What are both of you really!」

「You're incredible! Elfi-san!」

「The user of “Demon eye of explosion”!」

Elfi is perplexed toward the adventurers that are in a state of excitement

「As expected, Iori-san is really strong!!」(Misha)

「O,Oo?」(Iori) TN or「Ye-Yeah?」

My shoulder is being shaken by the excited Misha. The other adventures are having similar feelings, too. For the adventurers who picked a fight with me some time ago, they are looking at me with faces which seem awkward.

「You've saved us-ze! Thanks! 」

「I thought that I was going died」

「.....I'm sorry for making fun of you」

Apparently, after all, what had happened it didn't turn into a fear toward us. This is troublesome, however.....

「———」

At that time, there's a sharp gaze being pointed toward us. Because of the adventurer had gathered around us, I do not know whom it is from.

However, from the gap of the adventurers I've seen the man with full armour sent his gaze toward us. Yet, I can't tell his expression behind that helmet.

「.....」

Anyway.

With all that, we have arrived halfway up the Labyrinth of Purgatory.

Episode 15: Across The Fervor Domain

After the battle with the flame dragon, the subjugation corps has taken a break again after confirming that no demons are nearby.

Fortunately, although we received such a surprise attack, the damage was hardly inflicted to the subjugation corps.

Although, there's people who suffered injuries, but it's to the level where a potion and magic is enough to deal with it.

I've used most of my magical power during my fight with the flames dragon. However, almost all of it is recovered and it's all thanks to the Jade Longsword.

Although it is unknown, either because the long sword itself is amazing or my magical power is scarce.

A few minutes later, the meeting to decided our next plan was held.

「So far the progress of the subjugation corps was always stopped halfway up the volcano/labyrinth. There are a lot of casualties and it keeps increasing at the halfway up the “Torrid Region”」

It's an advanced level of flame attribute magic.

Because during those time when we came here there was no such magic, probably it's the power of the new Flame Demon Lord.

Considering the consumption of water and physical strength because of the heat and fighting against the demon, they must decide whether to withdraw halfway.

If they decide to advance from here, they must resolute themselves with death if they want to defeat the Flame Demon Lord.

「This time there aren't any casualties. Moreover, there's physical strength and water remaining. Shouldn't we proceed?」

There are a lot of adventurers that gave their opinion to advance ahead.

For us, it was really convenient.

「What about both of you?」

Therefore, both mine and Elfi opinion is being enquired.

Though they just ignored us a while ago, is their attitude changing toward us just because we've defeated the flame dragon.

「No objection」(Elfi)

「Me, too」(Iori)

Therefore either because is supported by both of us or not, the conclusion is, the subjugation corps will keep advancing.



After we proceed from the halfway, approximately 30 minutes has passed.

As might be expected from the depths of the labyrinth, the miasma gets thicker causing the number of demons to keep increasing.

From beyond the halfway up of the labyrinth, there's no figure of the fire looper which is a low-class demon. However, there's a lot of flame lizards and flame rock tigers instead.

In addition to that, the strength of each one of them has increased, too.

I gradually sense that the adventurers begin to lose their composure.

Despite how good they are, if demons appear they wouldn't be able to handle it in this state and because of the large group, it will be impossible for them to avoid it by breaking through demons.

However, if they want to capture the labyrinth. Then several powerful people at the level of the best in the whole country will have better efficiency to accomplish it.

Then after several minutes, we encountered herds of demons and in correspondence to that we are suffering from a pincer attack from all around.

「UWaAAaa!?!」

A flame rock tiger has breakthrough the vanguard and is headed toward the

images unit.

The other adventurers that are still busy handling the incoming demons are unable to react to it.

「———」

Then, Elfi invoked her demon eyes.

A small explosion was created right in front of the flame rock tiger and it had stopped its movement.

In the meantime, the other adventurers have finally reorganised their stance and begun their counterattack.

Then after several minutes, somehow we were able to annihilate the demons which ambushed us.

「Awesome, “Explosion”!」

「Thanks!」

The adventurers have expressed their gratitude to Elfi as they're getting attached and over familiarly with her as they're calling out her name.

It's a sight which I've watched many times over since a little while ago When the battle formation might collapse from the enemy attack, Elfi will reorganise it back with her demon eyes.

Because of that, till now there were no casualties occurs.

「.....Elfi. Can you try to preserve your magical power?」(Iori) Because it was impossible for the adventurers to defeat the Flame Demon Lord.

Similar to the time with the Earth Demon Lord, Elfi's Demon Eyes will be our main attack against the Flame Demon Lord.

The bottom line is that Elfi gets absolutely nothing out of it and she will just wear out her magical power.

「No problem, because I've minimised the consumption of magical power」(Elfi) Although she said that, however since then Elfi's always reliably helped those adventurers.

「Why did you go that far just to protect those guys?」(Iori) 「.....Although

there's a bunch that I can't get along with. However, right now we are comrades that have similar objective to subjugate the labyrinth」(Elfi)
Comrades.....those adventurer's, huh.

Certainly, she's right that we're in the same subjugation corps. However, to treat them as a comrade is.....

Suddenly Elfi's said while smiling.

「If I could.....I won't let any of my friends die anymore」(Elfi) 「....., such naive thinking」(Iori)

「Yeah. Even Ortega himself said that I was naive, you know」(Elfi) At that time, the enemy's raid roars sounded.

This time, the flame lizards crawl out from the crack in the ground.

One of them is leaping toward the adventurer who has a delayed reaction.

「——Fu!」

I threw my spare sword there.

The flame lizard died as the sword pierces through its eye.

「You help me there-ze, thanks, man!」

I've nodded back at the adventurer that expressed his gratitude to me, then I tell Elfi.

「If it's the case, I'll move until my magical power is restored with Jade Longsword.

You mustn't use your demon eyes too much, you got it?」(Iori) It doesn't mean that I've recognised what Elfi thought, at least both me and Elfi are fellow accomplices.

Since we have a similar objective, then it will be necessary for us to compromise with each other.

With a look that was a little surprised showing on Elfi's face, she smiled, the end of her lips moving upwards.

Thenceforth, I've actively supported the adventurers around me.

I've used the magic stone as much as possible as long it was in the range that it can be restored with the Jade Longsword. However.

After that, around thirty minutes later.

We've arrived at the deepest part of the labyrinth.



On the spacious foothold in the depths of it, there's a river of magma flowing.

If I look up above, the sky peeps out from the opened crater greatly.

Judging from the structure of the labyrinth, it's the deepest part.

From the density of the drifting miasma, there's no doubt that the『Labyrinth Core』is here.

「.....」

There isn't any figure of the Flame Demon Lord or Beltoga to be seen.

However, the presence of the demon can be felt.

It must be lurking somewhere in this space.

「.....!」(Misha)

At that moment, Misha suddenly flicked as she turned towards the magma.

Elfi's turns her gaze toward the same direction with her demon eyes, too.

Simultaneously, when Misha calls for caution.

There were multiple roars that can be heard as a silhouette begins to emerge from inside of the lava.

What had appeared is not the Flame Demon Lord itself, but it's the Flame Dragon which Elfi has defeated with her demon eyes some time ago.

There was three flame dragons that appeared at the same time.

「Could it be, this is the Flame Demon Lord!?!」

While the adventurers are confused.

『RoOooAaaRrrr』

As the labyrinth is being shaken by the triple roars.

Three of the flame dragon's opened their mouths at the same time, then they're releasing their breath vigorously.

「"Water Wall"!」

The mages had set up a defensive wall and because of that, we manage to endure it.

However, the flame dragons keep pursuing without giving us time to rest.

「UwaaaAA!?!」

「——Don't lose your composure you idiot」

Elfi's using her demon eyes rapidly toward the sky.

The small scale explosion that has appeared stopped the movement of the startled flame dragon.

Matching this timing, I throw the magic stone by taking advantage of that opening.

「"Magic Break "」(Iori)

The flame dragon which was swallowed up by the explosion is still alive although it has been wounded.

As expected, a single blow isn't enough to defeat it.

「Follow up with those two!」

The adventures began to make their move accordingly.

As they're reorganising their formation to counter offence the flame dragons.

Hence, a desperate struggle has started.

As the flame dragon gave their breaths, the mages will defend against it.

By using the gap, swordsmen are attacking the flame dragon at the same time.

It was the man wearing a full armour who has played the most active part.

Without knowing the reason, he had to throw off his gauntlet, then he follows it up with a swung off his great sword that has broken the flame dragon talon.

Therefore, the flame dragon is trying to let out its breath after it loses one of its weapons. Countering to that Elfi has invoked her demon eyes that had created an explosion in its mouth finally exploding the flame dragon.

Meanwhile, Misha is moving around on the battlefield with her movements that surpassed that of a human being as she leaps to the wall and cuts off the flame dragon talon by a stroke of her sword.

Aiming at the falling flame dragon, me and the rest of the swordsmen assault it with our swords.

By repeating such conduct, the adventurers finally succeeded in the repulse of the flame dragons somehow.

However, it has left quite an amount of casualties on our side as well.

Those who were blown off by the flame dragon's charge and those who became a victim of the breath has turned many of them incapable of fighting.

There's some of them who are exhausted after using up their magical power.

「It's going to be dangerous if we don't have those "explosion"-na.....」

「I agree. This time those two have performed the most merits-na」

Nevertheless, the adventurers are still making a satisfactory expression as they said that.

「Elfi」(Iori)

「Yes」(Elfi)

It isn't over yet.

The three flame dragons with such level can't be the Flame Demon Lord itself.

At that instant, the stream of magma has erupted which created several pillars with it.

The whole labyrinth has shocked violently.

「Wh.....what is it!?!」

「Oi, it's a lie right!?!」

From the lava, a giant of flame with several-fold size of a person has

appeared.

With a magical power that can't be compared with the flame dragon being burst out from its roar as it came from the bottom of the earth itself.

Then, it swung down its large arm.

In that instant, a flame is blown out from there.

The adventurers that seem to cram inside the chamber have let out screams as they barely invoked the protection magic.

I, who understood that it will happen beforehand has jumped away from the flame range, while Elfi has endured it with her demon eyes.

When the flame vanished, most of the adventurers have let out voices of agony.

「It was in comparison with the breath of the flame dragon.....! Ridiculous!」

「Is that the Flame Demon Lord!? How can we win against that.....!」

「Run for your lives!」

The adventurers who had lost their fighting spirit are turning their backs as they start running away.

It's not some merciful opponent that will just let its prey escape.

With a roar, the Flame Demon Lord has raised and swung down its arm.

At that instant, a flame has burst out from its arm.

After that, the Flame Demon Lord is turning around to this place.

「There isn't the figure of Beltoga. Be careful because he might lie hidden somewhere」(Iori) 「I understood」(Elfi)

Thankfully, till now I've managed to preserve my magical power.

Now the role of those adventurers is over.

——Because we going to take over from here.

Beltoga is nowhere to be found.

However, if it happens that he was here, he should make his appearance

before the Flame Demon Lord is defeated.

Come out and show yourself.

Because when it happens, it will be your last breath.

『————』

As the Flame Demon Lord howled and begun to move.

Episode 16: Unexpected reaction, And

The battle has begun.

I won't expect any support from those adventurers from our rear. Because they should have used up all their strength in the fight against the flame dragon.

Truthfully, there should be casualties left during the attack of the flame dragon halfway up the volcano. However, there isn't any casualty and it's all thanks to Elfi who's been greatly providing support till now.

It seems that until we reach the labyrinth deepest part, I can't afford to let my guard down.

『—————』

The Flame Demon Lord is roaring while swinging both of its arms around, for each time when the flames are being fired off, it will pour like rain from the overhead of Elfi and mine.

By exchanging looks with each other, I've jumped away from there in order to evade the rain of flame, as for the one that I can't avoid, I'll drop its power using the "Magic Usurpation" then cut it down using the Jade Longsword.

By simply directing her gaze at it, all the flames have vanished in front of Elfi.

If that's the case, then I should do my part here, too.

The race of the Flame Demon Lord is known as the "Flame Giant" and according to its name, it is a giant made of flame magical power. Though, it's a strong demon the weak point is obvious, too.

「The torrent of life, the maelstrom of drifting spirit. Overflowed, gathered, downpoured」(Iori) I grasp some magic stones and start chanting an aria.

「——"Water Cannon" 」(Iori)

What I've used is a water attribute magic and it's really convenient because I

can enhance its strength by raising the quantity of magical power used.

With the magical power provided by the magic stone and the effect from the『Ring of Magical Strength』, the power of the shell is increased more than twofold.

『————』

As for the Demon Lord which body is was made of flame, it showed an excessive reaction toward the bombardment of water.

Then its countering it by pouring its own power into the ground as pillars of flame were created in the line of fire of the “Water Cannon” and with such firepower and advantageous attribute , the “Water Cannon” has evaporated in an instant.

『AAaaaAAhhHH』

The Flame Demon Lord seems to have recognised me as a threat as it rushed at me while letting out a roar.

「.....It seems to not have much intelligence」(Iori)

The Earth Demon Lord had the intelligence to understand human language, however, it seems to be different from this fellow as it regards only me as its target without minding Elfi which has moved behind it.

『RoOoAaaRrr!!』

As I look up to the attack that has been released by the giant, it was terribly wide in range as the released flame is split and flying over from multiple directions. Moreover, when I evade the fist coming down, the flames are gushing out from the surface of the ground that was leapt by me previously.

Anyway, it's really bothersome.

「"Acceleration"」(Iori)

I enhance my agility, determined to devote myself in evasion.

I predict the next move of Flame Demon Lord by observing the movement of the arm and the flow of its magical power.

Dodge, dodge, dodge

「I'm done!」(Elfi)

Along with Elfi's voice, I've shot once more the "Water Cannon" toward the Flame Demon Lord which was swinging its arm around and at the moment when the Flame Demon Lord was about to raise its arm to prevent it, Elfi has invoked her demon eyes.

「————」

The defenceless Flame Demon Lord is swallowed up by the explosion .

Meanwhile, I stand on the watch for Beltoga intervention, yet nothing happens.

Is that fellow not here?

or.....

『RoOooAaaarR!!』

The Flame Demon Lord rushed out as it broke through the smoke.

With the inflicted damage the composition of flame on its body has become unstable.

「.....As expected, it isn't enough to defeat it, huh」(Iori)

If it were the common Flame Giant, that should've been able to defeat it by now.

The body of the Flame Demon Lord is trembling as the colour composition of its body is starting to change from red to blue then finally it changes into black.

I've moved to the distance where Elfi was in haste.

「.....A black flame giant. It's a rare species and it's the first time I see one」
(Elfi) 「How about the amount of its magical power?」(Iori)

「Only for the quantity, that Earth Demon Lord should be inferior and I think it will be harder as of now」(Elfi) I look at the adventures.

Those bunch are still staying there in a state which made them unable to assist us.

「Its can't be helped, huh. Elfi I'm counting on you」(Iori)

「.....」(Elfi)

Elfi's reaching her hand out to the『Bracelet of Disguise』

It is a magic item to conceals a race, she equipped it before we entered the hot spring city.

It has the effect of changing the magical power of a demon to the magical power of a human and while having it on, the wearer magic power will drop.

An intense magical power gushed out from Elfi who has taken off the bracelet and it isn't at the level of a human.

It's the magical power which had the characteristic of the Mazoku that make others skin to *PIRIPIRI* tingling.

「..... I wanted to avoid it if possible, you know」(Elfi)

Elfi who is at her full power said that while frowning.

.....Indeed.

Depending on the situation, we might need to massacre every single one of those adventurers.



「Shit.....what should we do.....」

The majority of the gathered adventurers have fallen into despair as the Flame Demon Lord had appeared.

From the battle with the dragons, most of the adventures have used up all their magical power. Even if there was someone who barely had some magical power, it isn't the quantity that made them worthy opponents to the Flame Demon Lord.

Above all, during the first blow from the Flame Demon Lord, most of the A rank adventurers who stood forward have fallen into a helpless state. Though by giving them a few of the remaining potions with precedence, their formation is still shaking.

They have fallen into a greater despair after a scene has unfolded before their eyes.

「.....It's a lie, right? Isn't that a.....Mazoku」

When they thought that they will win against the Flame Demon Lord, they saw the “Explosion Demon Eyes” user removing her bracelet which is a magic item, then what flowed out of her is the magical power of the Mazoku itself.

「For.....Such Mazoku」

「Did she just deceive us?」

「Th-then that guy lori that next to her is he actually a Mazoku too.....」

The Mazoku is an enemy.

It's an opponent they're at war with and a detestable race that has killed numerous humans. The fact that one of them was next to them all along, its enough to make the adventurers turn pale.

「B-but.....they're fighting with the Flame Demon Lord-ze? What was their reason for doing that.....」

「By any chance, are they our ally?」

「Then, after the Flame Demon Lord, is defeated, won't we be killed next.....!?!」

Fear is mixed in their eyes when they look at both of them as a gloomy atmosphere began to gather.

「Calm down, haven't both of them always helped us till now!」(Misha) 「Even so, they might have some hidden intention, right!?!」

Like “Suspicion will raise bogies” the adventurers are denying the words of Misha. *TN Once you become suspicious, everything is suspicious. And thus, a doubtful mind creates it's own devils and sets itself up for failure. Not a good thing.

Misha herself was surprised at Elfi's true identity, too.

It never crosses her mind that **she*** might be a Mazoku. *TN Elfi 「Before it's too late, how about attacking both of them all together with the Flame Demon Lord! While they are preoccupied with each other, it's possible to kill either of them!」

Finally, it was the man that wore full face helmet the one who gave such suggestion. Still, there's no one approving such proposal and while both of their conditions are rapidly turning to worse.

In the end, it was concluded.

『Let's leave those two behind, while we escape from this place』

In a state of being worn out, it'll be hard to get out of the labyrinth alive. However, it was a better choice than staying here. Such a decision is made, it was during the time when the adventurers were going to escape.

『———!!』

The Flame Demon Lord suddenly changed its target. Instantly, it has unleashed a jet black shell toward the back of the escaping adventurers with its dazzling heat capacity and it was the moment when the adventurers have opened their eyes wide in surprise, suddenly.

「——"Heavy collapse"」(Elfi)

The shell is being knocked off to the ground as its being pulled down by the gravity and it was done by the Mazoku who had once used the "Explosion" itself.

She's using her demon eyes to save them who almost received an attack.

「Just now.....she」

「Has saved us.....right?」

In the situation where they are being helped by the Mazoku, the adventurers stopped their movements.

If they had the intention to take their lives, it won't be necessary to protect the place where they were right now and it would be better to let them die without trying to help them.

「Isn't she a Mazoku.....Why did she do that?」

Is muttered by one of the adventurers as his question wasn't answered by anyone.



.....we're in disadvantage.

Approximately several minutes have passed since we had begun fighting against the Flame Demon Lord and if it proceeds as I've been expected, Elfi should already have invoked her demon eyes with her full power. However, she has to expense her magical power by invoking her demon eyes to protect those adventures who were about to escape.

Tsk! that Elfi.....

『RoOooAaaarR!!』

After seeing the attack of Elfi's demon eyes, it would perceive that she was dangerous.

As the Flame Demon Lord gradually narrows down its aim to Elfi.

I saw that Elfi showed has piled up some fatigue just by looking at her face and when she was about to defend against the Flame Demon Lord. Then 「——Hah」(Iori)

Hence, the approaching Flame Demon Lord has changed its aim from Elfi to me.

I dodge the blow from its stout arm which fell from above me and if I'm going to counter it, it will be repelled by those black flame.

It's pretty hard.

Even so, I didn't slow down with my attack as I slashed it repeatedly using the Jade Longsword. In the middle of it, I began chanting an aria and fired the "Water Cannon" right into the face of the Flame Demon Lord.

In that single shot, I've put all of my might, as the Flame Demon Lord leans back greatly after receiving that blow.

Because the water itself was its weakness and I've fired it directly into its face which is a vital point, however, it was to the degree to be taken aback by it.....

While I'm amazed at its hardness, I make my next move.

Toward the stumbled Flame Demon Lord, I've thrown two Magic Stone at it.

Simultaneous, the Flame Demon Lord is being swallowed up by the explosion

of the “Magic Break” right after I’ve taken my distance by back stepping.

『Roo.....AaaRr!!』

The Flame Demon Lord which jumped out from the smoke is still in good condition itself.

Nevertheless, it shouldn’t be uninjured.

Unlike the Cave Dragon, the Flame Giant body is made from raw magical power itself and no matter how hard it was, it should inflict some damage after being attacked by magical power.

The damaged Flame Demon Lord is once again focusing its attack on me and just by approaching the Flame Demon Lord, my skin would be roasted from its extreme heat.

I felt that my physical strength is lost at every single moment although I’ve been protecting myself with magical power.

Until Elfi invoked her Demon Eyes, I have no other choice but to overdo it, huh.

「“Acceleration”」(Iori)

It’s a magic to increase the agility. Though I raise my movement up one level, The massive figure of the Flame Demon Lord still catches up to me.

Therefore, I’ll need to raise my speed even more.

「“Two folds Acceleration”」(Iori)

My whole body feels creaked.

Just by raising my agility, it would impose a burden on my body.

As my bones and muscle are screaming from such excessive movement.

「UOooOOooooo!!」(Iori)

Thus, by such unreasonable movement, I have been leading around the Flame Demon Lord by the nose.

I cut it with my Jade Longsword from all sides, and its accompanied with shots of “Water Cannon” at the back of its head.

In response to that, the Flame Demon Lord fired its magic in desperation in an attempt to seize me.

I've Dodged it, cut it, dodged it, cut it, cut it, cut it.

「Kuh.....」(Iori)

I continued to keep attacking the Flame Demon Lord while vomiting blood.

The Flame Demon Lord becomes impatient as it seem to be using a large-scale magic, after it was unable to catch up with my speed.

While doing the calculation, either the adventurers are going to betray us, I won't let off my guard as I'm vigilantly looking for Beltoga appearance who doesn't come in sight.

My brain felt like it was about to be burned out.

「Move asi——」(Elfi)

That's the end.

Elfi which was going to use her magical power in full throttle, send her signal to me.

「Just shoot it~!!」(Iori)

「————!!」(Elfi)

The next moment, my view was dyed with crimson red.

The body of the Flame Demon Lord exploded after receiving the hits from the Demon Eyes.

The blast from the explosion reaches me who jumped away using a back step.

「——"Magic Break Suppression"」(Iori)

Even with my current magical power, I'm able to employ a shield.

I invoke it, while simultaneously consuming an entire magic stone and majority of my internal magical power, while the Magic Break Suppression has perfectly prevented the blast shockwave.

The Flame Demon Lord which lost most of its body falls down on the ground.

As the flame vanishes, the black flesh is exposed beneath it.

『————』

It let out an earsplitting scream at its death in agony.

The Flame Demon Lord died, after it leaves an unpleasant cry that seems to be calling out for something.



The Flame Demon Lord has been defeated.

However, Beltoga didn't come out.

What's going on?

On earth what is that bastard up to?

I survey the surroundings in vigilance, yet there's no figure of that bastard.

What's here is Elfi and only the adventurers who are huddle together in the vicinity of the room entrance.

So, Beltoga wasn't here?

The instant I stopped paying attention.

『Gii~!!』

From the stream of flowing magma on the most inner part of the room.

A flame dragon jumped out while raising a high-pitched cry.

「There's some left?.....!!」(Iori)

Because of the “Two folds Acceleration” the consumption of my physical strength is intense.

With my remaining strength, it would be hard to deal with the Flame Dragon.

The flame dragon opens its mouth as its about to release a breath.

It's inevitable.

It was the time when I was about to put myself on guard against the incoming ambush.

「.....RELEASE」

GOTON, I've heard a sound of something falling into the ground. *TN SFX

for a light, semi-muffled clattering sound.

Looking back, it was an unknown man that has risen up.

It's not Beltoga.

However, the armour which falls into the ground is the person who always trying to pick a quarrel with both of us from back then.

Helmet, gauntlets, armour, everything was removed as that man hold his large sword.

「.....it will last for thirty-second, huh」

At the moment he muttered that his magical power blew violently.

「Wha.....」(Iori)

He made a great leap after his steps have smashed his footing on the ground.

Before him was a Flame Dragon that was about to release its breath.

The instant when the Flame Dragon was going to change its aim toward the approaching man.

「RAaaaAAA!!」

That man large sword has bisected the flame dragon and as the flame dragon was cut in two, its fresh blood scattered and fell to the ground.

That man landed on the ground, delayed after the falling corpse.

Silence visits the room.

There was already no sign of the demon anymore.



While letting a rough breath, that man turns his gaze this way.

As the adventurers come towards us, too.

「.....」

In response to it, I've prepared myself to make my move. Apparently, it seems that man has some strength left. From the rest of the adventurers, there should be someone that still able to fight.

「Elfi」(Iori)

「.....」(Elfi)

It has been known by those adventurers that Elfi was a Mazoku and that's why I can't trust any of them.

It'll become troublesome if its being leaked outside. Then, if I want to deal with it, I need to deal with them right now.

While I am raising my precaution, one of the adventurers opened his mouth.

「——You've saved us-ze. Thanks」

Hah.....?

While still taken aback by that, the rest of the adventurers continue it with their words, too.

「Both of you were unbelievable-yo! I've never thought that the Flame Demon Lord will be defeated-yo!」

「Oi, you're Iori, right!? That movement of yours was amazing-ze!」

「"Explosion"! was really cool! I've been charmed by it!」

We're being struck by the words of thanks.

Everyone calls out to us in a favourable manner.

There's no hostility.

「What had hap.....」(Iori)

They should have understood that Elfi is a Mazoku.

Then, why didn't they attack?

Aren't they attacking? Because they could throw away the favour of being protected and earn money by capturing a Mazoku.

「It seem that you have done it without dirtying your hands-na」

「W-well.....」(Iori)

While I was puzzled, the man from back then approached us.

That's right.

Until now, this fellow picked a quarrel with us badly.

Exposing his true character here, he should be going to attack us.

「As for anything that happened till now, it was my bad~na」

As he thought so, the man bowed his head to us.

「And, I'm sorry for my lateness to provide you with my assistance. I have fainted from the hit of that giant」

「Fumu.....So you got Magic Discharge Illness, huh」(Elfi) *TN Fumu=Hmph Elfi said that after she looked at that man.

Magic Discharge Illness.

It's a rare illness that appears to someone that possess numerous magical powers. Its said that they will always discharge their magical power from their body.

「Yeah. That's why I must wear armour to suppress my magical power and if I remove it, I can only fight for around a few dozens of seconds」

While saying that, he equipped the armour on his body again.

「.....」

Everyone here is not hostile toward us.

The adventurers are flocking around Elfi, albeit they knew that she's a Mazoku.

“You're in the way” as Elfi gets flustered.

「Good grief.....What's with all of them」(Elfi)

Elfi returned back.

After that man attached his armour「It's my bad-na」he apologised once again.

The man name seems to be Solkin.

An A-rank adventurer.

「I was unable to tolerate kids fighting by all means」(Solkin) So he began to talk.

He seems to have two children and those children seemed to become adventurers as they yearn after Solkin.

「.....What happened?」(Iori)

「.....Died. Both of them」(Solkin)

As he said it with a regretful expression showing on his face.

「Thats why when I saw someone around their age, I will stop them from becoming an adventurer by all means. However.....I was wrong and I'm sorry for everything that had happened」(Solkin) Solkin lowered his head deeply.

It was the time when I was about to open my mouth.

「——if it's the case, just go to where those children were at once-ya」

I heard a *ZUGAN* sound. *TN SFX that create by metal being struck by something.

Before long, Solkin who stood before me has vanished.

Thus, Elfi takes the initiative by thrusting herself.

「.....!？」

On the spur of the moment., Elfi has caught Solkin who got blown away.

The metal rod clad in flames was swung down at Elfi who got her movement stopped. Both Solkin and Elfi make an unpleasant crushing sound as both of them crash into the wall.

「What are you trying to do.....」

The one who had picked an attack with those two was the adventurer who wore a full-faced helmet.

While the surrounding adventurers are letting out shocked voices.

Then the man took off his helmet.

At that instant, *BAKIBAKI* cracking sound produced while his body transformed.

「I have used the『Humanisation Armour』and it's an extremely rare magical item-na. That's why no one had noticed it-ze」

It's a man whose beyond 3 meters tall.

With dark skin, a rock alike muscle and horn which grew on his head.

「Yo, it's been a while——Amatsu～」

Finally.

The betrayer who poisoned me back then.

Beltoga is before me.

Episode 17: If don't take the risk right here

「Beltoga.....!」(Iori)

I felt blood rushing to my head after my revenge target appeared before me.

I need to calm down.

I can't kill him if I lose myself.

I need to calm myself for the sake of killing him.

「.....」

Among those who wore magic items on their body, there's a man who wore a full-face helmet mixed among them.

But, when Elfi observed it with her Demon Eyes there's nothing unusual with the magical power. Moreover, because his appearance looks like a human I wasn't able to notice at all.

Besides, I've been too cautious of Zolkin who wears full body armour.

Damn, it's a blunder.

「U.....Guh.....」(Elfi)

Despite the great amount of blood flowing from her forehead, Elfi is still alive.

It appears that Zolkin is safe too because he was being protected by Elfi.

.....I'm glad.

「I got the information about you from Merwin, but this esteemed me was surprised when looking at the real thing-ze. Because this esteemed me thought that guy was trying to make fool out of this esteemed me, but it seems that guy has done very good work didn't he?」(Beltoga) “Well, he probably died because this esteemed me got no contact from him-na?” As Beltoga shrugged his shoulders.

.....As I expected, the「Beltoga」in that letter wrote by Merwin is without

doubt this bastard itself.

「Your appearance completely changed and you've become weak, too.

Hey, are you doing well?」(Beltoga)

「You bastard.....」(Iori)

「Well even if you're doing well, it doesn't matter cause this esteemed me will kill you after this anyway-na ?」(Beltoga) What's in the grasps of Beltoga is a person sized metal rod.

Is that a magic item? Because it's being cladded by flames in response to Beltoga magical power.

「O~.....oi, what the meaning of this? You.....why?」

「Oni*.....? What the heck?」*TN Oni=Ogre

As the adventurers are being drawn back by Beltoga overwhelming majestic appearance.

Beltoga sneered at them after he saw them in such state.

「Such thickheaded riffraff, heh」(Beltoga)

「.....You went all trouble to be mixed up yourself among the adventurers, just for the sake of killing me, huh?」(Iori) 「Nah, It just happens by chance. Originally this esteemed me just came over to this town to assess the war potential of the Federation-na」(Beltoga) 「.....So that's the reason, huh」(Iori)

By the words of Beltoga, the adventurers recall some conversation at the guild.

『—— Is it about the day before yesterday? The data regarding the labyrinth has been stolen』

I did not mind it so much, it was probably done by this bastard when he got mixed in with the adventurers.

「This esteemed me thought it was such a troublesome task, but thanks to you, everything seems to work as this esteemed me wants」(Beltoga) 「..... what?」(Iori)

When Beltoga spat on the Flame Demon Lord corpse, he laughed and smiled.

「Since long time ago, this guy was an obstacle, ya know. It should be this esteemed me of the Flame Oni more befitting to become the Flame Demon Lord. Just because this fucker has a big quantity of magical power he was selected. Therefore, thank you for killing him! Thanks to that, it was decided that this esteemed me will be promoted!」(Beltoga) In good mood, Beltoga plays around with his metal rod.

「Therefore-na? It's the reason why you and that woman over there must be killed!」(Beltoga) 「GuuHh~!?!」(Iori)

A huge metal rod is lightly swung down.

At the moment when I jumped backwards, the amount of flame covering the metal rod is increased and it doubled the attack range.

My view is dyed in red as I was wrapped up in flames.

「Hey, why do you think that this esteemed me came out at this timing?」(Beltoga) 「——」(Iori)

「Well, it's to ensure that you're properly dead this TIME!!」(Beltoga) The metal rod is being swayed around like a storm.

Though I prevent it with Jade Longsword, I can not diverge the flames which are emitted from the metal rod.

It's breaking through the defence of the equipment wore by me little by little because I can see that my flesh is being burned too.

Every time I endure his blow, my magical power is being scraped off while maintaining the body strengthening I can not afford to take out the magic stone because of his continuous strike.

「What's wrong? Na~, fight this esteemed me back! Aren't you're the legendary Hero-sama, right!? Right!?」(Beltoga) The attack itself is not so troublesome.

However, due to the power of the blow and the flame that are blowing out from the rod, I can not afford switching to counterattack.

「Doesn't it feel painful? Are you tired? Do you want a potion?」(Beltoga) 「.....」(Iori)

「However, it's going to be the poisoned one-Na! Didn't this esteemed me have told it to you? Because it had happened a long time ago this esteemed me memory is quite vague about it. However, this esteemed me has deceived you once by making you drink poison-ze? Somehow it was ineffective-Na!」(Beltoga)
「I know it, you BASTARD!!」(Iori)

「Is that so」(Beltoga)

As he takes my striking blow with a soft sword technique.

At the same time,

「GAho~」(Iori)

With a cough, I spat out blood.

Shit, the exhaustion from the two-fold acceleration its crippling my body.

「Oraa!!」(Beltoga)

In that gap, the metal rod is swung to my ribs.

Though I've defend it,

「Ga.....aaaaaaahh~」(Iori)

MEKIMEKI as my bone creaks remarkably and I have been blown away unable to stop it. At the same time, my left shoulder making *whack* unpleasant sound.

I was slammed against the ground after being unable to defend myself.

Along with my dislocated shoulder, my view turns white due to the pain from being slammed against the ground.

I bit off my lips in order to keep my consciousness which was almost blown off.

What are you doing? myself.

The betrayer is right in front of you.

Do you have time to sleep?

At the same time as I get up, I use Jade longsword as a cane to support myself instead.

「Ora, yo~!!」(Beltoga)

As the metal rod was thrown vigorously.

However, it wasn't aiming at me.

「ELFIiiiiiiii.....!!」(Iori)

It was thrown toward Elfi and Zolkin who were laying on the ground.

Thus, I run with all my might and stopped it with my Jade Longsword.

「Gua.....aaaaaaaaaaaaHH」(Iori)

I felt the scorching heat on my left shoulder.

I couldn't muster my strength well anymore.

While, my sight is blinking, too.

Albeit, I couldn't react to the metal rod completely but at least I've managed to alter the trajectory in time.

「You look tired-na?」(Beltoga)

The fist of Beltoga which approached me all too soon has sunk into my flank.

「Ha.....!?」(Iori)

My breath stopped from it.

I don't know how many meters I got blown away as I bounced before landing on the rough ground.

I understood that my flesh was chipped on the rock which split finely from the impact.

「Hey~, What were you doing for these thirty years, were you asleep?」
(Beltoga) An acute pain that almost takes away my consciousness is attacking my whole body.

Though it only felt relieved after I drunk the potion that I had inside my clothes.

My magical power is recovering thanks to the Jade Longsword, albeit I'm unable to move my body.

「When this esteemed me recalls that this esteemed me once called you『Amatsu-san』it make this esteemed me have goosebumps-ze」(Beltoga)

With calm and composed expression, Beltoga is sneering at me.

Because this bastard is the kind of guy that flatters the strong but sneers toward those weaker than him.

From the fatigue condition of me and Elfi, I wonder if I was convinced that I could win.

Because currently we're at a disadvantageous position.

「You got some nerve to turn your back on.....me」(Elfi) 「.....!?」(Beltoga)

Elfi who stood on her knee her pupil has turn into crimson red while staring at Beltoga.

However, it just makes Beltoga shake for a moment.

「Elfisuzaku wasn't it? Well till now this esteemed me has been watching those Demon Eye capability, ya'see. That's right, you can't do anything without magic, wasn't it?」(Beltoga) 「.....」(Elfi)

「The good-for-nothing does become a drag. Well, this esteemed me will kill you afterward」(Beltoga) As Beltoga says, most of Elfi's magical power was used in the previous battle and that last attack made by her.

Noises occasionally appeared on her limbs. *TN Noise probably blurring like a hologram.

It seems that she had a hard time maintaining her alter ego body.

「H.....Hey, wait!」

Voices rise from the adventurers.

I guess they could finally swallow the situation.

「If you do it anymore, we will become your opponents-zo!」

「That person is our benefactor!」

「I won't let you kill **him/she***」TN the original word in Japanese is gender neutral Suddenly, a red wind blew.

「———Hah?」(Beltoga)

「Hii~」

As the magic power spews from the body of Beltoga.

The adventurers can be heard shrieking after being stroked by it.

It's a handed down magic of the Onizoku known as "Demonic Majestic".

It's a magic that drops the mental state and instils fear into people that have weak anti-magical power.

However, it's ineffective against me who wears protective magic items.

Probably, it the same for Elfi too.

However.

「U,UA aaa Aaah!？」

「Mo.....Monster!!」

But it was unfortunately for those adventurers.

In addition, they fell into a panic after being overwhelmed by it as their physical strength and magical power is already exhausted Even Misha body can be seen trembling along with her shaking knees.

「A bunch of weaklings」(Beltoga)

As soon as he spits in disdain, Beltoga laughed smugly.

「Say, all of you. Isn't this guy your benefactor? Aren't you going to help?」
(Beltoga) 「Eh.....?」

「Then, face off this esteemed one. Make sure to try your best to help, na? Well, you might get kill when facing this esteemed me though」(Beltoga) As Beltoga beckoned at the adventurers.

It was an ugly rotten smile similar to Luser and Merwin.

「On the other hand, if you guys kill him along with that woman this esteemed one might overlook all of you-ze?」(Beltoga) 「.....」

GOKURI as someone was gulping.

I can see that an expectation had appeared on their face.

Ah, it was the same trick that I used to Merwin.

Because Beltoga doesn't have any intention to let those adventurers get away.

Since the labyrinth core is not being dispossessed yet, there's still demons in the labyrinth.

In addition, every one of them is already exhausted and that makes no meaning for them trying to escape in that condition.

「.....」

Then the adventurers turned their gaze toward me and Elfi.

『If those two are killed.....』is being showed from their eyes.

「Ah.....」

Among those gazes.

There's Misha among them.

She stretches out her hand at the sword on her waist while looking towards me.

Did she recover herself by drinking a potion? Meanwhile, Zolkin is looking at us too.

「Ha...HaHa」(Iori)

Ah! As I expected.

After all, this is their true nature.

People easily betray people if it is for their own sake, no matter how much they've been helped.

It was meaningless to try and help them after all.

It so funny that it makes my stomach hurts.

「.....!」(Iori)

Bullshit.

Don't mess with me.

As if I let myself get killed.

I've to rise myself with the support of the Jade Longsword.

Its becoming possible for me to move with the effect of the potion.

My magical power was restored during the conversations, too.

I'm going to kill Beltoga.

I'll massacre those adventurers if they're going to betray me too.

I'll kill them, either if it's Zolkin or Misha.....

「.....wha」

The adventurers are watching me while huddling together.

Are they having cold feet? Or have they thought out any strategies?

Humph, as the bored-looking Beltoga snorting.

「Well, this esteemed me assume that as『Let them die without helping』, You guys just need to stay there-zo」(Beltoga) As Beltoga's turning around facing here.

「Gezz, both Lucifina-san and Dionis-san are too soft. This esteemed me will end this properly or all of this will never end-na」(Beltoga) As the sound of footsteps approaching this way.

I prepare the Jade Longsword on my right hand while grasping the magic stone in between my dislocated left shoulder fingers.

Elfi is screaming my name.

「For sake of our old friendship. This esteemed one will at least hear your will」(Beltoga) 「Kill———」(Iori)

「As if I'm gonna hear it, you FOOL!!」(Beltoga)

As the metal rod of Beltoga approaches.

While stepping back, I've thrown the magic stones somehow and caused an explosion using "Magic Break".

When I move my body is struck by an intense pain as my consciousness is about to be blown off by it.

「Its futile!」(Beltoga)

From the smoke, Beltoga which wears flame armour came popping out.

Then swinging down his metal rod from high-handed attitude.

Although I was trying to ward off the rod by using the one-handed technique, but unfortunately my sword is being blown off.

As *CLANG-CLANG* sound was made by the Jade Longsword after falling to the ground.

「GO TO HELL!」(Beltoga)

The metal rod of Beltoga draws near before my very eyes.

I have no weapon.

I can not reach the magic stone.

The magic can not be activated in time.

Elfi is unable to move.

There aren't means to prevent the metal rod.

「At such.....place.....」(Iori)

Die———.



However, there was no sound of meat being crushed.

But only some high-pitched metallic sound that had clashed with each other.

There's a single person from the cat beastman standing before my very eyes.

Catching the swung down metal rod while holding a sword with both of her hands.

While her hair and flesh are being burnt by the flames.

Even so, with agonised look, she desperately prevents the metal rod.

「Hah?」(Beltoga)

When Beltoga looks puzzled, then simultaneous.

There are countless numbers of magic that came flying from his rear.

However, it doesn't have much of a power because of its just low-class magic.

「.....You lot」(Beltoga)

At the moment when Beltoga sends his attention toward his rear, Misha was moving nimbly while embracing my body in a brute force as she runs like wind while not leaving my sword behind.

「YOU SCUM!」(Zolkin)

As a great sword was being struck against Beltoga who had raised his metal rod in his attempt to not let us get away.

Unfortunately, it was repelled and bounced by Beltoga skin which can break a rock barehanded.

Zolkin was holding a great sword while standing in front of the Beltoga.

「.....Eh?」(Iori)

Misha carried me to the vicinity of the room entrance.

While some adventurer runs up to me and makes me drink a potion.

「Iori-san are you alright!? I'm sorry for unable to help you as soon as possible!」(Misha) Misha is apologising to me.

Why.

「.....Iori」(Elfi)

「Elfi.....」(Iori)

Before I'm aware of it, Elfi was carried here, too.

She is made to drink a potion likewise, too.

「What are you doing, you bunch of small fries」(Beltoga) Beltoga threatens them while exercising the "Demonic Majestic".

Because of that, the adventurers are trembling after they being struck by it.

There's even someone that wet his pants among them.

Even so, everyone stood in front of us, facing Beltoga.

「Sorry, up to now I've lost my nerve and wasn't able to move」

「It's kind of miserable」

The adventurers apologise while trembling.

Why?

Did not you mean to betray us?

「Why.....」(Iori)

Without a doubt, the “Demonic Majestic” is working.

The adventurers should feel fear.

「You idiot. How could I abandon my lifesaver」

「Even if I escape here, there's no meaning if I abandon the main actor who defeated the Flame Demon lord, ya'hear」

「As if I let myself at the mercy of that oni」

The adventurers pretend to be tough as they're smiling at me.

「If it wasn't because of you, I'll probably be already dead by that flame lizard. Then it was my turn to save you this time, right?」

One of the adventurers who was helped by me back then said that to me.

Because I was saved.

Because of gratitude.

Because of being protected.

So, I will not betray.....?

「Whats with that surprised face?」(Zolkin)

Unaware, Zolkin was standing there.

His armour is dented greatly and blood is flowing from the gap.

「Because everyone right here has been helped by both of you-ze」

The adventurers are nodding their heads agreeing at the remark made by Zolkin.

「Oh, I can finally return back those favours. I am lucky-ze」

「I'm tired of letting just the two of you hogging all the cool side for yourself」
They're just pretending to be tough.

Because both their voices and legs are trembling.

Moreover, there are teeth clattering sound that can be heard from them.

「Haven't I said it? That I don't like seeing children fighting. Above all, I hate to let a child die the most. That's why I won't let you guys die-na」(Zolkin)

「———」

Beltoga flung his metal rod against the ground as he was irritated at the attitude of the adventurers.

「Oy Oy, you know that you can not win against this esteemed me?」(Beltoga)
It just like what he had said.

The exhausted adventurers will only be slaughtered if they confronted him.
Even though.

——— No one runs away.

「I understand that, however.....」

Misha who stood up glanced at Beltoga as she said that.

「——Because we are adventurers. If I don't take the risk right here, then I wouldn't be an adventurer!!!!」(Misha) The adventurers are cheering at her outcry.

「During the fight with the Flame Demon Lord, I've taken enough breaks! I'll compensate it by working myself up-zo!」(Misha) 「———Ouu~!!」 TN literally 「Yeah~!!」

In tired fashion, they grasp their weapon and begin an aria with their scarce magical power.

「.....Why?」(Iori)

Hence, a battle without winning chances for the adventurers has begun.

Episode 18: Beltoga

「Inferior species are DISGUSTING!」(Beltoga)

As the clusters of adventurers are blown away by a hit of Beltoga.

The magic that they've released from a distance is prevented by the flames while the magic that was about to hit him is being dispelled and cut with the metal rod.

Because of being already in an exhausted state, they can not keep up with the movement of Beltoga even though they are able to cooperate perfectly.

「Sheesh.....Is he a monster?」

Misha who doesn't join the fight clicks her tongue while giving aid to us.

Her companions were clenching their teeth too as they saw the situation.

「Elfi.....Is it possible for you to use the Demon Eyes?」(Iori) 「Its impossible, because right now I'm desperately trying to maintain my alter ego.....」(Elfi) The situation is at its worst.

As for me, my bones are broken after receiving those attacks back then.

My dislocated shoulder is restored, but its far from perfect.

「Iori.....Well, did you have another potion in the pouch?」(Elfi) 「.....That one is useless. Its not usable and I have already used up all that I had」(Iori) While I can see that the adventurers are being overrun before my very eyes.

「Shit.....」

Because Beltoga was the best among the Onizoku.

He is on the different level from Merwin's minions.

It'll be a different thing if we were in a perfect state, but it is impossible to fight and win in our current state.

「UwaAhhhhh~!」

「Damn it.....!」

「Do not get near.....!」

Zolkin who took off armour is fighting furiously, but Beltoga simply resists all those attacks.

Even the attack that had killed the Flames Dragon with just a single shot, it doesn't even faze Beltoga.

Some adventurers who got struck by his metal rod are scattered around him.

Death casualty might appear, too.

「It's useless, it's no use at all」

「What.....!」

Beltoga laughs while swinging the metal rod around leisurely.

「Phenomenal existence! Unique phenomenon! Status!

StatusStatusStatusStatusStatusStatusStatusStatusStatus! It's different from you lot status, ya heEaaaAar!!!!」(Beltoga) As the metal rod of Beltoga is swung around like a storm.

Zolkin who's standing in front of him was blown away, while nearby adventurers were crushed and the magician was burned by the hot air blown by the metal rod.

After all, they have no chance of winning.

It is only death that's waiting for them.

「Aa~mashu~, Don't you try to run away~zo? 」(Beltoga) As he blows off the adventurers, Beltoga is gradually headed for us.

「Such! Inferior bunch! No more than just buying some time! Just die already!」(Beltoga) All of them were able to hold him less than one minute?

「.....Iori-san, please run away」(Misha)

KACHARI sound was made as Misha pulls out her sword from the sheath.

While exchanging looks with her comrades.

「I'll earn time even if a little. Meanwhile, please escape from the labyrinth」

(Misha) 「.....Are you guys willing to die?」(Iori)

As Misha suddenly had a cramped smile on her face.

「It was no other than Iori-san and Elfi-san that has cured gramps, its even to the extent of having given us gold to repair the shop. Moreover, by the time we came here, both of you have helped me and my comrades many times. So let me return those favours here」(Misha) So, what do you mean by it?

Because they were helped by me, that they wanted to return that gratitude?

All those words are the same words that have been said by those who have betrayed me once.

「Why.....By doing that, you're just throwing out your own life. Why don't you just get rid of us and escape.....Are you not afraid of dying.....?」(Iori) 「I'm afraid to die, however」(Misha)

「Even if there's something such as gratitude or how indebted you are, don't you escape if one's life is in danger!？」(Iori) Elfi is listening to the conversation silently.

While Misha's companions are also staying silent.

「Though, there is "that", too」(Misha)

Misha laughed and said.

「——I want to help, so I will help. That's all」(Misha) 「That.....」(Iori)

That's.

Those were the lines that I've said when I was a Hero and it was during those time when I was still intoxicated with ideals.

「.....Let's go!」(Misha)

Misha heads toward Beltoga together with her companions.

She's moving straight without looking back.

「Heh, it's a cat beastman? This esteemed one doesn't understand cats because cats and oni are different from each other, ya know!」(Beltoga) With agile movements, Misha is messing around with Beltoga.

She's continuously slashing Beltoga, but her attack power can't even inflict any damage to him.

The magic from her companions also does not even reach Beltoga.

What should I do?

It was the time when I hesitated like that.

「————」(Iori)

A noise runs into my view.

I saw the back figure of somebody only for an instant.

It's a man with grey hair.

He stood as to confront something while his overcoat was fluttering.

Before long my sight returned to normal.

「...」(Iori)

"I want to return the favour" and "I want to help you".

Before they had betrayed me those bunch have said those words in order to approach me.

I was betrayed while I was intoxicated by the sweet ideals that have made me not able see their true nature.

"I want to make a peaceful world" or "I want to protect my important person".

Even now, I think it's worthless. It is just my hypocrisy that I don't want to face the reality, such as "I'd want to help".

However.

It would be different now to abandon those who fight for us and run away.

「.....Alright」(Iori)

I pull out the Jade Longsword that was recovered by Misha.

I take out the magic stone from the pouch by using the arm which is finally able to move.

「What are you going to do, lori」(Elfi)

「It has been decided. The subject of revenge is in front of me and I have decided to kill it」(lori) If I lose that scum right now, I do not know when I can meet him next time.

If that the case, I should definitely kill him here.

「Then, I will do what I can do」(Elfi)

「.....Won't you escape?」(lori)

「Fool, I was hit hard with a metal rod, you know. As if I can forgive him」(Elfi)
Elfi said that while narrowing her eyes.

「Well, that man was there when I was sealed. When Ortega told me that “Your subordinate is already dead” those guys used my subordinate corpse as a plaything. There's no way I can forgive him, right?」(Elfi) 「.....I got it」(lori)

I decided to fight without running away.



「OoOoooOooooooooooooOoooOoooh~!!」(Beltoga)

Beltoga puts magical power in his voice as he shoots out a roar.

With that, Misha was hit directly by that roar's volume which echoes through the labyrinth.

While her companions lose their consciousness and fall.

「——Ah」(Misha)

By the time Misha realised that, her body was inclined, too.

As her whole body has lost its strength, she's gradually approaching the ground.

To the point where she saw her own shadow draw closer to her very eyes.

「Just die already, you trash!」(Beltoga)

Just before the metal rod is reaching her.

「————」

A black robe fluttered.

There was someone who got in between them while catching the metal rod that was swung by Beltoga.

「Ah.....」(Misha)

Iori that was supposed to have escaped was there.

「You have just wasted the efforts of that small fry, Amatsu」(Beltoga) 「.....I wonder about that?」(Iori)

As Iori and Beltoga exchange blows with each other.

After all, the current Iori isn't a match for Beltoga.

Even though it is.

「Hero————」(Misha)

Misha gradually lost her consciousness.

The appearance of the fighting Iori seemed to overlap with the figure of the legendary hero itself.



「Right now you bastard are on a different level with this esteemed one, ya hear!」(Beltoga) I've desperately parried the metal rod while taking distance from the adventurers.

In the eyes of Beltoga the adventurers are rubbish.

Beltoga seemed to feel nothing as we keep drawing more distance from them.

「There's no figure of that woman-na, has she run away? In comparison with her, it seems that the cool Amatsu-san doesn't run away-ne! Are you still pretending to be a hero, HUH!?」(Beltoga) 「Kuh.....」(Iori)

「In comparison with this esteemed one, THAT hero right now is! Totally at whole different StatusStatusStatusStatusStatus, GET IT!!」(Beltoga)

「"StatusStatus" just shut up already.....!」(Iori)

I've used "Acceleration", "Body Strengthening" and "Magic Usurption" to

drop his power while attacking him using the “Water Cannon” and “Magic Break”.

As for Beltoga that seems irritated by it, he swung down his metal rod toward the attack that was aiming for his field of vision.

「“Burning Wind”」(Beltoga)

「!？」(Iori)

That shock wave, became a hot wind capable of burning down one’s whole skin.

It was surprisingly breaking through “Magic Usurpation” that was invoked by me as it makes my whole body burn from the wind.

I even felt nausea from too much heat and pain.

So far I almost used up my remaining strength.

However, I smiled and provoked Beltoga.

「To spout that “StatusStatus” thing, has being discriminated by humans affected you that much~na? It’s surely a terrible inferiority complex you got there」(Iori) 「Haaah.....？」(Beltoga)

「Because of that, with those disparagement “He that knows little often repeat it”*, you sure have turned into a “StatusStatus” Oji-san**, huh」(Iori) TN *Only a fool repeats himself*, *Old man 「HaaAAAAAH~!？」(Beltoga)

Beltoga mows me down with all his might after feeling annoyed from being referred as “StatusStatus” Oji-san.

It’s just a blow using force without aim.

I receive it using my last bit of strength.

While cancelling the shock as much as possible, I use that momentum to blow myself off to the rear.

Thus, I’ve clumsily rolled on the ground.

Somehow it even has inflicted some damage to me.

「HaH.....! After all that, the bragger sure can’t do anything at all~ne!」

(Beltoga) But it's as planned.

「Huh.....?」(Beltoga)

At the next moment, the temperature of the labyrinth fell down one level.

The drifting miasma had disappeared.

「It sure helps that you're just an idiot~ze」(Iori) 「Could.....it be」(Beltoga)

While Beltoga *BA* turns his gaze suddenly to the deepest part of the room.

Beyond that gaze, Elfi was standing with the labyrinth core in her hand.

「How did.....!? You should have disappeared from this room」(Beltoga) 「You sure are shortsighted, you know」(Elfi)

By covering herself among the adventurers, she was heading towards the labyrinth core in the state of the freshly-severed head while I was buying some time.

The reason why I took distance from the adventurers is also for the sake of concealing it.

「"Without magical power, you can not do anything", huh? It doesn't mean that it will refrain me from committing thievery~zo?」(Elfi) 「You BITCH!」
(Beltoga)

「Iori, catch it!」(Elfi)

As Elfi throws the labyrinth core.

Beltoga starts to make his move.

I've intentionally been blown off by that bastard for the sake of catching the labyrinth core.

However.

「Baaaka*~! This esteemed me is way faster, ya'see!」(Beltoga) TN * Idiot
「.....!」(Iori)

Beltoga readied his metal rod as he's about to release a magic.

Shit, is he going to burn me down along with the labyrinth core.....!

「Go to hell, Amaaatsu~!」(Beltoga)

Just before he shoot the flame at me.

「——Ah?」

Beltoga's head exploded lightly.

Somebody has attacked Beltoga with magic.

「You scum.....」(Zolkin)

I find that it was Zolkin who fell down on the ground pointing his arm toward Beltoga.

He lost consciousness while such an expression remained on his face.

「Shit————」(Beltoga)

「!」(Iori)

At the moment when Beltoga was distracted by Zolkin.

In that gap, I have caught the labyrinth core.

It shines with rainbow colour after I crush it while receiving magical power from it.

Even though I absorbed Magical Power, as expected, all my power didn't completely return to how it was back then.

It only increases the amount of my usable magical power from before.

This is a bet.

Even if I have acquired the labyrinth core, the power that I obtained from it isn't enough to defeat Beltoga.

As my physical strength is also scarce, it's a disadvantageous wager.

——Nevertheless, for me, I've won that bet.

「Damn YOUuuUUU!」(Beltoga)

Beltoga fired the flame at me.

The amount of magical power that he put in it is incomparable from before.

The Extreme Flame.

It is certainly instant death if I'm being wrapped by it.

For that reason, it's convenient for me.

「———」

With all the magical power that I regained from the labyrinth core along with large quantity of magic stones, in an instant, I've activated only one magic.

As light envelops the Jade Longsword.

I swung the sword as it was towards the incoming extreme flames.

「——"Magic Hit Reflection"」(Iori) TN if there's anyone could translate this “魔撃反射” with better naming sense, please use the comment.

The reflection magic that makes the received attack return back to the other party with doubled power.

It was one of the trump cards that I used during the heroic era.

Because it consumes enormous magical power, it is a magic that could not be used even if I degrade it——. TN probably Iori trying to say that the magic is cannot be used even if he try to recreate the imperfect version of the magic.

If its this moment with the boost of the labyrinth core, it's possible to use it——!!

The extreme flame is doubled by the “Magic Hit Reflection”.

Thus, the flame is being reflected back toward Beltoga himself.

「You should have lost your magical power!? W-why.....」(Beltoga) Looking at the reflected flame, Beltoga grumbled.

His voice turns upside down while he repeatedly calls it as something impossible.

「It's impossible, It's impossible! Your status is, Status is different.....!」
(Beltoga) 「Uh huh」(Iori)

When he saw the flames that bounced back, Beltoga murmurs in dumb surprise.

I agreed with that.

「—— the status was different~na」(Iori)

The next moment.

A tremendous amount of heat enveloped Beltoga.

「**HIIIAAAAAH~**」(Beltoga)

Even the flame ogre who is good at flames will not be alright if they receiving that much flame.

「Hot.....it's HOOOO~T!!」(Beltoga)

The scream of Beltoga echoes in the labyrinth.

If its the toughness of this bastard, it probably wouldn't give him an instant death after receiving that blow.

Until the flame disappeared, Beltoga tossed around on the ground.

「A.....ahh」(Beltoga)

Nonetheless, this fellow didn't die.

He lies on the ground in a dying state.

He is in the state I want him to be, its just perfect.

——Finally, I can exact my revenge.

Episode 19: For The Sake Of Moving Forward

The innermost part of the Purgatory Labyrinth has fallen into deafening silence and because of the attack from Beltoga, all the adventurers are losing their consciousness.

Luckily, there's nobody badly injured and all of them just need some first-aid treatment.

In the meanwhile, I have no more usable potions in my stock and I have no choice but to wish that someone who went to confirm the cessation of the labyrinth will come with the relief.

For now.

「Don't you try to escape~zo?」(Elfi)

「G, GyaaaaaaaaHh~」(Beltoga)

While I'm giving first aid to the adventures, Beltoga is under Elfi's surveillance.

Apparently he tried to escape, but unfortunately for him, Elfi has pierced his foot using the weapon that she borrowed from the adventurer.

「It hurts.....It really hurts.....」(Beltoga)

Beltoga is groaning from the pain caused by injuries all over his body along with the pain from his foot being pierced.

As expected of an Onizoku, although he is resistant to fire he managed to cheat death after being burnt to such degree.

Still, if its left unattended as it is, he will definitely die for sure.

「By the way Iori, what are you going to do with this Oni?」(Elfi) While I look down on Beltoga, I heard the cold voice of Elfi.

Elfi has told me that this bastard had played with her subordinate's corpse like a plaything and apparently, it seem that Beltoga is also the revenge target of Elfi.

「Hmm, let me see」(Iori)

「Wawa~wait.....Please wait」(Beltoga)

Beltoga which breathed roughly had quickly kneeled down before me.

「I'll do.....A-a-anything. So.....please fo-for-forgive me」(Beltoga) While rubbing his head on the ground, Beltoga is begging with his tearful voice.

I am impressed at how fast he can adapt to this new circumstances.

Even after being burned with flames, he kept yelling「I'll kill you」for quite a time, though.

「Hmph.....Those wretched self-important mouths which spew nothing but insults right now are trying to butter up when he's about to die, huh」(Elfi)
「S~Sowwy, I am sorry..... for making light of Amatsu-san and Elfisuzaku-san」(Beltoga)
「That makes me feel sick, don't you dare to call out my name!」(Elfi)
As Elfi looks down on Beltoga with a repugnance look in her eyes.

If I don't stop her, I feel that she might kill him on the spot.

Nevertheless, the reaction made by every single one of them, either Luser or Merwin is really amusing for me.

To turn like this when oneself is about to die albeit themselves are sneering and killing others. I really wanted to see this scene.

「Did you say that you will do anything?」(Iori)

「Ye-yes.....! I'll tell you anything and whatever you ask.....!」(Beltoga)
「Then tell me where Dionis and Lucifina are now and what they are doing currently? If you do so, I'll give you a potion」(Iori)
The single red portion which remains in my possession is being shown to Beltoga.

Unlike those distributed provisions, it is an expensive potions that I had prepared separately.

Moreover, it's really effective, too.

When I showed it, Beltoga eyes light up as he easily leaked the information about the current status of those two.

Now that the Labyrinth of Hades has fallen there's a meeting being held at

the Maou castle.

Moreover, Lucifina and Dionis also seem to participate in it too.

It seems that both of them have been raised to the upper stratum in Maou army after killing me.

「Do both of them, know that I'm alive?」(Iori)

「.....N-no. It is only me who heard the story from Merwin and because of that nobody else in the Maou army knows about it other than myself」(Beltoga)
That's convenient.

It's because I'd like to see those surprised expression of theirs when they learned that I was alive.

Unfortunately, the matter regarding Elfi break-out, it seems that its already known.

Perhaps it will cause the other labyrinths to be vigilant.

For now, there seems to be no talk about putting out the pursuing party yet. However, I guess it will be a matter of time.

「So those two are at Maou castle, huh. It's really troublesome~na」(Iori) After that, I've finished listening to all the information known by Beltoga in several minutes.

「E-e-either way, are you going to get your revenge.....? I-if so, then I will cooperate with both of you! Because I couldn't stomach those two all along, you see」(Beltoga) Apparently, he was Dionis subordinate who seemed to have been used like a gofer by that guy.

He was telling me how he's unable to stomach Dionis who works his ass off and those Four Heavenly Kings who do not appoint him as the Flame Demon Lord.

Therefore, he will cooperate if I was going to exact my revenge on those two.

.....I'm done with him.

「.....Do you want to help, Beltoga?」(Iori)

「Eh.....ah! yes! Please let me do so!」(Beltoga)

「However, I came here for the sake of my revenge too, you know」(Iori)
「Hii....., Pu-pu-please forgive me.....! It is meaningless to take revenge on something like me!」(Beltoga) 「.....Well, you're probably right~na. Because the revenge will not bear anything」(Iori) 「Ye-yeah! That's right! S-so then..... err.....」(Beltoga)

In order to survive, Beltoga readily changes his opinion and allegiance.

Moreover, it seems that he intends to please me with his flattering.

「Yeah, let's do that」(Iori)

「.....Haa*. I will entrust the rest to you Iori」(Elfi) TN *sigh 「Okay」(Iori)

Elfi averts her gaze from Beltoga as if she can not bear to see him.

After nodding on it, I gave the potion to Beltoga.

「Thank you very much.....!」(Beltoga)

As soon as I gave it, Beltoga immediately began to *GABUGABU* gulp down the potion.

As might be expected from such an expensive potions, shortly after Beltoga drank the potion his burns caused by the flames are being cured.

Currently, you could say that he was being cured to some extent from the dying state of being seriously injured.

「.....!」(Iori)

「IORI !」(Elfi)

Suddenly, it became hard for me to stand as I have staggered.

I've turned my back against Beltoga while my knee is on the ground.

Then, Elfi ran up to me as she became anxious about it.

「Please don't act too rashly.....because humans can die easily, got it!」(Elfi)
「Yeah.....I understand」(Iori)

It was when I was preoccupied with Elfi.

「HA, KUHAHA!」(Beltoga)

A strong magical power began to blow from behind me.

In retrospect, I saw Beltoga about to invoke his magic with one of his arms while he rises up one-legged.

「.....What do you intend to do? Beltoga」(Iori)

「What this esteemed one intend to do, AHH*? It seems that this esteemed one decided to kill you, ya'hear」(Beltoga) TN AHH* is a stronger version exclamation of Ah Because his wound are healed, I guess it'll be easy for him to beat us who were in a weakened state.

For him to change his attitude that fast is really laughable.

I can hear Elfi who let out a small breath.

I wonder if it was her way to declare her intentions that “there is nothing to say anymore”.

「HAHaHaHAHA!!! This esteemed one will turn both of you into cinders TOGETHER!!」(Beltoga) To butter up to a strong one while being harsh toward the weak.

Even for the one whom he flattered before, he will easily turn over them if their position changes.

He's already beyond saving.

「.....Though I've helped you with the potion?」(Iori)

「Then, so what!? Just say it in HELL!!」(Beltoga)

As Beltoga was going to release magic while shouting.

However, it's according to my calculations.

「——Gi*!?!」(Beltoga) TN Grit* SFX for the grinding or clenching of teeth, as if in pain The next instant, Beltoga blood vessels have emerged from his entire body.

His eyes change into a dusky colour while his body has begun to convulsion little by little.

「Eh!?.....ArghHhhhhhhH!?!」(Beltoga)

Beltoga who no longer has the ability to exercise his magic is lying on the ground once again while writhing in agony.

It seems the pain that he is suffering all over his body right now is far beyond the pain that he felt from those burns before.

He shed tears of blood while his face is being covered by a mixture of his own saliva and nasal mucus and on top of all that he's vomiting in pain.

「Wha.....what aregh!?」(Beltoga)

「Hey, do you know the “Nail of the ogre”?」(Iori)

I pick up the empty bottle which lies on the ground and show it to Beltoga.

「AarRGhH!? Couze iz be inzite tat potion!?」(Beltoga) TN Could it be inside that potion!?

「That's right. It was the same thing which you gave me before and I've just returned back that favour, you see」(Iori) From the time when I learned that I had been poisoned, I have already decided what the suitable revenge method for this bastard is.

It is to give him a poisoned potion in the same way that he did to me.

I thought that it might not be possible to take such measures in the situation until just now. However, I'm glad that it went the way that I wanted it to.

「GuHGah!? GUGYAAaaaaAaAAAAaaaAAaaA!?」(Beltoga)

Beltoga is writhing in agony while *BIKUBIKU* twitching about on the ground.

If I remember it right, the one who drinks this poison will experience『as if there's a small ogre running wild inside of his body inflicting severe pain』

「Don't you think that it is considerable irony for an (Oni)Ogre to drink the nail of the Ogre?」(Iori) 「GAH, GOEAAAAAAH」(Beltoga)

Well, I guess he can not afford to answer it.

It takes just a few minutes for the effect to come out after drinking it.

It seems that it will take time for the poison to take effect before he dies from it.

But when magic is used in the state which one had drunk it, it will speed up the poison effects.

This bastard just did as I wanted when he tried to attack me with his magic.

That is the reason why I deliberately turned my back on him.

Well, I expected it to turn like that and I showed that gap on purpose.

Those psychological things won't be enough for him because I want this bastard to regret that he has betrayed me from the very bottom of his heart.

A pain.

Those psychological things which I gave to Merwin won't be effective on him because this bastard won't regret it unless I give him an overwhelming pain.

「If it's just as it is, you will die because of that intense pain within three minutes」(Iori) 「GiiiaAaAHHHh.....!! Heap mi.....Healp meeeeeeee」(Beltoga)

Therefore, I pulled out two bottles from the pouch.

There is a blue liquid inside it.

「It's an antidote. If you drink this right now, you will be saved」(Iori)
「Pupulease! Please give it to me!」(Beltoga)

With an unexpected articulation tone, he implores for my mercy.

While writhing in pain, he was trying to cling onto me.

「I-I won't defy you anymore! I ill.....zoo anything! So please forgive me!」
(Beltoga) 「If I give you the antidote. You will attack me again, won't you?」(Iori)
「Ire Won't! Ab-solutely!! Tjen.....So, pupulaeze!!」(Beltoga) Beltoga apologises many times to me while he begged for the antidote.

It's only one more minute to go.

He probably won't survive even if I give him the antidote, though.

However, its time for the finishing touches.

「Then, watch this carefully~」(Iori)

I show off the antidote to Beltoga.

Responding to that, he stretched out his hand while crying out words of gratitude to me as he thought that I will save him in his mind.

「Eh?」(Beltoga)

I smashed one of the antidotes right in front of his very eyes.

As the bottle breaks, the antidote flows into the ground.

The antidote run off into the gap of the rugged rocks.

「Ah, Eh?」(Beltoga)

「Albeit ” the revenge will not bear anything” 」(Iori) That’s right for certain.

Even if I annihilate every single one of those bunch who had betrayed me, It won’t change the fact that I had been betrayed.

Even if I realise my revenge, nothing will return back to how it was.

However.

「If I don’t let you pay the compensation for betraying me, then I won’t be able to move on, you see」(Iori) I won’t be able to move on if I was bound by the past where I was betrayed and killed.

The fact that this bastard had betrayed me is engraved deeply in my heart even though they have forgotten about it while they lived comfortably their lives.

I only felt having been saved a little after those adventurers didn’t betray me.

But that is totally different from this.

「Well because of that」(Iori)

I release my hold on the other bottle.

「NuoOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!」(Beltoga)

As Beltoga screaming.

「——When killing you in this way, I wonder if it will make me feel refreshed?」
(Iori) The last antidote was broken and scattered at the same time when he let out his screams.

「UuuuuuWhyyyyyyyy?」(Beltoga)

「The reason is because you had betrayed me. To me from thirty years ago, you had...」(Iori) Then, Beltoga screams from the intense pain and the reality that the last antidote is gone.

Then, he showed such an unsightly appearance as he licked the ground desperately. Yet it seems ineffective when you look at his *PANPAN* bloating body that causes the poison effect.

While I laughed at it, I told him.

「If you hadn't betrayed me, you wouldn't have to die, though?」(Iori) Having heard those words, I saw that the face of Beltoga was stained with regret.

“If I haven't done that”, “If I hadn't betrayed Amatsu”.

I can grasp such feelings from it.

At his very last moment, I was able to finally see it.

「PLEASE.....PLEASE FORGIVE MEEEEEEEEEE~」(Beltoga)

The words of apology that I wanted to hear.

Shall I return him back those words that he said to me a while ago?

Oh!—, that's it.

「——Say it in HELL!!」(Iori)

While he's screaming at his last moments.

Beltoga body gotten swollen and bloating to its limit from the poison before it bursts off as it is.



「..... Seems it's already ended」(Elfi)

「.....aah*」(Iori) TN Yeah*

With this, two down.

As for those who betrayed me most directly such as Luser, Dionis and Lucifina they are still beyond my reach.

Still, revenge is revenge.

I will exact my revenge on everyone to ensure that I can finally move on.

I have not decided what I'm gonna do yet.

「As usual, the way you did it is really nasty」(Elfi) 「.....Sorry for having you to

tag along with me」(Iori) TN this sentences can be read as「.....Sorry for having done it in my way」

「You fool」(Elfi)

Somehow after that Elfi said in a gentle tone which seems to show that she was worried about me.

「This is also my revenge-zo. It's because I can't do such an elaborate revenge like you did, and regarding that Oni, I'm really thankful to you for that」(Elfi) 「I think I won't be able to eat anything for around one hour」she said while sticking out her tongue.

“I guess it's only an hour” as I retort while both of us let out a small laugh.

「Huh?」(Iori)

Then my sight *GURARI* swaying.

Suddenly the ground and the ceiling are reversed.

What is this?

「Iori!」(Elfi)

As I *BOSU* pomf got caught and embraced by Elfi.

Before I came to realise it, my consciousness gets farther away.

「.....You have done well」(Elfi)

While I felt that my head is stroked.

「.....If I'm with you, this time I'm sure that———— it's possible to do it」
(Elfi) Right, to believe in.

I lost my consciousness at the end of such voice



Then several tens of minutes later.

The subjugation corps were saved by the reassembled adventurers which came running from the rear guard.

Episode 20: Be Never Betrayed Anymore

「.....Nn」(Iori)

The white ceiling was reflected in my view when I opened my eyes.

It seems that I was lying in a bed.

The bed creaked as I raised my body.

「Good morning, Iori」(Elfi)

When facing toward the voice, it was Elfi who sat next to my bed.

「.....Ah, how long have I been asleep?」(Iori)

「It's been two full days」(Elfi)

Since then we seem to have been rescued by the adventures and were transported to the hospital.

My wound are already cured with healing magic and seemed to be only waiting for me to regain my consciousness afterwards.

「.....What happened to those adventurers?」(Iori)

「There were many of them with severe injuries, but miraculously nobody was dead. That cat girl and the full armour guy are also safe」(Elfi) Elfi said it's all thanks to the fast movements of the adventurers in the end.

There seems to be someone who was in a considerably dangerous state.

But the help has rushed quickly and gave appropriate medical treatment, because of that, no casualty appeared.

「Is that so.....」(Iori)

I let out a relieved breath and leaned against the bed.

Well, I'm glad.....

「.....That's right. Regarding your true identity as Mazoku being exposed and what happened afterwards?」(Iori) 「It's a stupid question-zo. If it was

transmitted to other people, neither you nor I'd put in here now」(Elfi) No-one of those adventurers seems to have leaked out Elfi being a Mazoku.

It seems to be informed that the labyrinth subjugation was accomplished by the outstanding performance of two “human beings”.

Nobody has betrayed us.

I was betrayed by my fellow companions who I believed, and was helped by the adventurers whom I doubted.

.....As I expected, do I have a poor eye on judging others?

「It appears that not everyone is a low-life like your former companions, huh」
(Elfi) 「.....」(Iori)

「Similar to those adventurers, it means that there is someone who will abandon their life for sake of repaying a favor」(Elfi) Who to doubt and who to trust.

Such as, the human that can believe in, huh?

Because either you and me have to ascertain those properly first.

That is the hidden meaning in Elfi's words.

「.....How about you?」(Iori)

「You moron. It will be you who decides it, right?」(Elfi) 「.....You're right」(Iori)

I have to listen properly to Elfi once more firmly regarding that later.

It seems that the corpse of Beltoga was collected by the guild, the Flame Demon Lord and the Flame Dragon's material will distributed equally among the adventurers.

We seem to be called by the guild to be handed a reward.

「.....That's right. Regarding my body, I've retained it a while ago, you know」
(Elfi) 「Oh」(Iori)

While Elfi hums a sound effect of “JaJaJaJan~♪”, two arms grew from her head.

As expected, it's really an awful scene to watch.

「Both of my arm were sealed inside the “Purgatory Labyrinth”. I have collected it before the help came」(Elfi) 「.....So, what’re you gonna do with it」(Iori)

「I’ll do it like this」(Elfi)

When I thought that her alter ego arm went off, but at that moment Elfi *KYUPON* attached and stuck those arms on the cross section.

「It’s done!」(Elfi)

「.....Are you going to attach it just like that?」(Iori) As she *BUNBUN* swings around both of her arms to check the movement. TN *BUNBUN* = *shake shake* With just that, apparently, those arms seems to have been attached perfectly.

—Truthfully, what is going on with this fellow body?

「What remains is『Legs』『Body』and my『Heart』」(Elfi)

「So you are divided as such.....?」(Iori)

It’s rather rough, huh.

「I truly want to regain my heart as soon as possible, you see. Because most of my magical power is in the heart」(Elfi) 「What would happen when we regain it without the body first?」(Iori) 「.....? I think that the heart will be floating in the air-*zo*」(Elfi) 「If that happened, don’t you try to approach me at night, got it」(Iori) 「Ehh.....」(Elfi)

It was when we were having such conversation.

The door makes *GARAGARA* rattling sound as it being opened, then someone came in.

It’s Misha and Nyamel.

「It seem you’re fine and what’s th——」(Iori)

「「Iori-san!」」(Misha & Nyamel)

「UO!?!」(Iori)

As soon as they’ve seen my face, both Misha and Nyamel jumped at me like a dog.

Both of them cling to my body.

「Wa-wa-What are you bastards doing!?!」(Elfi)

Elfi's screaming from out of nowhere after seeing what both of them had done.

While not minding it, both Misha and Nyamel are「I'm glad-nya, I'm glad-nya」as they're still attached to me.

It took a couple of minutes until the excitement of both of them went away.

「I-I am sorry lori-san. Because my accent came out when I'm excited.....」
(Misha) 「It's been a long time since I heard my Onee-chan accent-nya」(Nyamel)
Nyamel who had an astonished face at Misha who corrected her wording while her face was turning red.

Is that “Nya” an accent.....?

「I was anxious because lori-san didn't wake up」(Misha) 「I am sorry to make you worry」(Iori)

「No, above all I'm glad that you're fine.....」(Misha)

Misha and Nyamel seemed to have come to visit because they've been worried about me.

Then, for several minutes, we had a good talk with each others, we were glad that either of us is safe.

「Oy, you bastards, do not ignore me」(Elfi)

「Ah! It's the strange head miss customer-nya!」(Nyamel) 「There's nothing strange with my head!!」(Elfi)

With Elfi who is outraged by the words of Nyamel who seem to have just noticed her presence.

「Hey! If this guy wasn't there, then I won't be here right now-zo. She an amazing fellow that is known as “Explosion” among the adventurers, ya'know」
(Misha) While Misha lightly pokes Nyamel head in warning.

I heard it plenty in the labyrinth and it seems that it is fixed as it is because of those “explosion”.

In this world, there are people that had quite a nickname.

「Thank you very much for helping my Onee-chan, nya! The exploding head customer-san!」(Nyamel) 「You bastard are you trying to pick a fight with me!?」(Elfi) While those two were happily making a racket somewhere else, Misha has expressed her gratitude once more.

As “Hey, don’t run there” and ” Thank you for coming to help me”

「..... It is me who should thank to you」(Iori)

Albeit I can’t trust others.

Because it is true that I had felt saved at that time.

「I have lost consciousness shortly after that, but Iori-san at that time.....was really cool-nya~.....n-no, You were cool!」(Misha) Misha’s face is blushed while her ears *PIKOPIKO* flip flop moving around.

It seems that the ears on the head actually move with emotion.

That reminds me that Nyamel ears are always moving.

「T-that’s right. When we going to come for a visit, Gramp said “As gratitude just say it if there’s something that you want me to make”」(Misha)

「”Gratitude”, that’s.....」(Iori)

Still, putting aside that “Gratitude” actually I want to buy a new armour before we proceed.

I would like to broaden my fighting capability and improve my defence power more than anything else.

First of all, let’s go over to Zoorutsu’s place.



It was an uproar when I went to the adventure guild.

「Hey, guys! The “Demon Lord Slayer” has come-ze!」

「Yo “Explosion”! I was worried cause you didn’t show your face and I’m really glad that you were fine-ze!」

「I heard that “Flash” was hospitalised, but he seems to be all right too-na!」

It seems that a considerable number of people were discharged from the hospital earlier than I was.

The adventurers crowd around us who just entered the guild.

I was being called “Flash” on my part, so maybe that is my nickname?

The “Demon Lord Slayer” That seems to be me and Elfi, it was both of us.

I greeted the noisy adventurers and went to the receptionist.

Even the receptionist that gave the explanation to us was in a little excited manner.

The basic reward is equally split. However, by the will of adventures, it seems that both of us have been allocated a considerable amount of it.

The amount of money from the rewards is quite large and there are also a lot of demon materials, too.

It contained the magic crystal of the Flame Dragon and Flame Demon Lord among them.

「.....For both of us to have this much is」(Iori)

「What are you saying! You guys are the ones who defeated that Flame monster-ze?」

「Even without that, I’m still getting an amount of money that I can play and enjoy my life for quite a while」

「Yeah right, I will go embracing a prostitute every day this month-ze」

They seem to be paid a considerable amount.

Well It’s a pretty good achievement to accomplish the labyrinth subjugation.

The considerable money will be granted by not only the guild but also from the country itself.

「It is the consensus of opinion from everyone and please accept it」(Zolkin)

「.....Zolkin-san」(Iori)

It seems that Zolkin-san was already recovered, too.

He still wears the same whole body armour as before.

「It's because of your protection, that we're here」(Zolkin) In the end, I decided to receive the reward as it is.

The amount of money which I stole from the kingdom is beyond enough, It will become a terrible vast amount when I include those money with this ones.

Well, with this I won't be troubled with any problem related with money, though.

「Fumu*.....lori, with this much money. Would it be fine if I spend it a bit?」
(Elfi) 「Yeah, or rather, it's Elfi's money after all and you may use it freely, you know」(lori) Then when I nod,

「It is a celebration of the labyrinth subjugation! Lets hit the bar! It's on me today-zo!」(Elfi) She shouted such a thing.

「HyyUUUU*! As expected of the "Explosion"! It make me fell in love with you again-ze!」TN whistling*

「Hooray!!」

「Alrighthttttt! It's drinks!」

「Please marry me!」

The adventurers are making a fuss about it.

「Even if that is the case, won't it be bad?」

「.....Everyone just recovered, though」

On that day, a banquet was held on the spot.



Three days passed after that.

During that time I was summoned to meet up with the Federations higher-ups in various ways, but I skillfully avoided it.

Even though I frequently got invited by the adventurers and because I don't want to attend the party, I declined all of it.

On that day, we came over to meet up with Zoorutsu.

He seems to work temporarily at another blacksmith's with the recommendation of his adventures connections.

When we came over to the shop, the owner also warmly welcomed referring to us as the "Demon Lord Slayer"

「You've come」(Zoorutsu)

Thanks to the healing magic there's no trace of burns remaining on Zoorutsu.

It seems that he was able to smith like before.

「The result was good as the previous one!」(Zoorutsu) I had Zoorutsu make a protective gear with the material which I got from the reward.

I had him use the magic crystal of the "Flame Demon Lord".

「This is it!」(Zoorutsu)

What I was shown was clothing type armour, the magical clothes.

It is a type of magic item that made by engraving a variety of magic in a special cloth.

Black as the coats base and in some places there's some crimson red pattern.

I understand just by a touch of my hand, that its toughness and magical power are not in comparison with those common armours.

Similar with the jade longwords, it's quite a considerable article.

「As a matter of course, the defence power against physical attacks and magical attacks is reasonable and this one is considerably resistant toward the magic of flame attribute. It's to the extent that it can withstand the advanced flame magic」(Zoorutsu) I was wearing the clothes while receiving the explanation from Zoorutsu.

It is considerably more light than I imagined it would.

Its considerably comfortable to be wear, too.

「If I should name it, it will be no other than the "Crimson armour"」(Zoorutsu)
「Crimson.....?」(Iori)

Apparently, judging from the appearances there were more black areas,

though.

If you were to name it, shouldn't it be a Jet Black Armor?

「Try cladding your body with magical power」(Zoorutsu) When I do it as I was told by the old man, some change happens on the armour.

The pattern of fire is gradually getting bigger.

「As for the armour, the more magical power flows into it the more crimson it will get. Plus the defence will also rise accordingly, too」(Zoorutsu) Does the defence power rise depending on the amount of magical power?

Although it is quite sturdy even as it is now, it is an outrageous armour.

After that, I have him choose some weapons which seem to be easy to use.

Since the remaining number of Magic Stone has decreased considerably, I have to reconsider changing my way of fighting soon.

「How much?」(Iori)

「I don't need the money-zo」(Zoorutsu)

I was told that flatly.

「Because this time you've taken care of Misha, too. That alone is more than enough for me」(Zoorutsu) While he crosses his arm as a declaration that he won't change his intention.

「Please receive it, Iori-san」(Misha)

「You thief, just take it-nya!」(Nyamel)

As both Misha and Nyamel say so.

In the end, I receive it free of charge.

「Say, Iori」(Zoorutsu)

Zoorutsu talked in a low voice upon his leaving.

「In the last few days, there has been no figure of the Wolf beastman in the town. It's as soon as my store has been burnt down」(Zoorutsu) 「.....By that, is there something wrong?」(Iori)

「Nah.....But if they managed to do something about it.....I just wanted to

thank the guy who did it」(Zoorutsu) Zoorutsu went back to the forge after he said those words.

「.....as usual, you are a sharp fellow, huh」(Iori)



Then in three days, I carried out the information gathering and complete my recuperation while arranging our preparation.

Thus, I've done collecting the information regarding our next destination.

Two days later.

We finished our preparations and decided to leave the Hot Spring City.

「So, are you going already? Then, please take a good care of your health」
(Zoorutsu) I say my thanks to Zolkin and other adventurers and leave the adventurer guild.

I also express my gratitude to Zoorutsu for those weapons.

「.....If there any business that you need to attend to at the Federations, just come over」(Zoorutsu) 「You're always welcomed-nya!」(Nyamel)

Both Misha and Nyamel were seeing us off.

It seems that Misha is quite dispirited somehow.

「I wonder is there something wrong with Misha?」(Iori) 「.....I wonder why」(Elfi)

As Elfi didn't answer with a blunt attitude albeit she seems to know something about it.



Merwin and Beltoga.

I was able to exact my revenge on the two betrayers at the Federations.

I cannot yet meet Luser and my other former companions, but I'll find them by all means and kill every single one of them.

I also obtained a bit of information regarding my other revenge targets.

The next destination is the Empire.

There's also a betrayer there, too.

「The Empire? I wonder is there something delicious there?」(Elfi) Elfi says such a carefree thing while walking ahead.

「.....」(Iori)

“Ascertain those who you can believe by yourself”, huh.

Apparently, somehow or another I understand that I had been betrayed because I've no eye in judging others.

「.....? Whats the matter Iori」(Elfi)

「.....Nah」(Iori)

Let's confirm it by myself regarding this fellow as well.

Never be betrayed anymore.

Intermission: While The Ogre Are Laughing

In the centre of Leytesha.

There's dense miasma drifting, it is known as a danger zone where powerful demons are swaggering around.

In such a place, there's a jet black castle enshrined majestically. It's a lone majestic building made out of magical steel created by the Mazoku and it's an ominous castle with an overwhelming presence to look at.

Its being protected by an anti-magic barrier for prevention against intruders. Moreover, the entrance is being blocked by powerful demons.

In the sky covered by dark clouds, countless dragons from various species are roaming through the skies. Even if humans had led their army here, they would experience difficulty in approaching the demon castle.

The name of that ominous castle is the Demon King Castle.

It's the headquarters and command post of the demon army which is led by Demon King Ortega Van Zalfredo.

Moreover, the Maou Castle is a kind of labyrinth itself. There's a huge "Labyrinth Core" installed inside, it releases miasma around the castle constantly, because of that there's plenty of demons inhabiting around the castle.

Inside one of the rooms in the Demon King Castle, there are several Mazoku surrounding the long desk while facing off with each other.

A tense atmosphere drifts inside the meeting room.

Several days ago, a full-fledged labyrinth that has not been threatened for thirty years has fallen and because of that, it was decided that a meeting will be held to investigate the cause and countermeasure for it.

However, on that very day, following the Labyrinth of Hades, the news regarding the fall of Labyrinth of Purgatory has arrived.

It was an open meeting to avoid any further loss of other labyrinths.

「After all, both the Earth Demon Lord and Flame Demon Lord are no more than just a fool and a small fry, aren't they?」(Unknown Onizoku) That was said by a man from the Onizoku who was dressed in a jet black uniform. He has light blue eyes and well-arranged indigo blue hair.

At first sight, he gave the impression of a man with gentle manners while having a delicate frame himself. However, his contempt is showed in his eyes while his lips were distorted as he uttered those mockery words.

「I am different from those fellows, you see. Because it's really unpleasant being stepped on by other Mazoku」(Unknown Onizoku) The man of the Onizoku continues his words in a haughty manner while raising up his chin glaring at the gathered Mazoku.

「.....But, I won't permit any further blunder due to the absence of Ortega-sama」(Unknown Silver Hair) It was a Mazoku with pale silver hair and blue eyes who retorted the words of the Onizoku man.

Refiise Gregoria of the "Rain"*. TN *Ame=雨

A Mazoku who is entrusted to act as a regent during the absence of the Demon King.

「In the first place, it was you who appointed both "Earth Demon Lord" and "Flame Demon Lord", didn't you? Then this is your blunder, right?」(Unknown Onizoku) 「.....」(Refiise)

Even in the presence of the Demon King representative himself, the man of the Onizoku—— Dionis doesn't intend to cast aside his insolent attitude.

Two labyrinths have fallen and in order to defend the other labyrinths, Refiise advocated the strengthening of the labyrinth. However, Dionis interjects the suggestion as something unnecessary.

「B-but, Dionis-sama. The Empire Army is showing some disturbing movement and the hero summoned by the kingdom is bothering me.....isn't it better to strengthen the labyrinth from this time onwards?」(Unknown Girl) At that time, the Mazoku girl which was standing behind Dionis had opened her mouth and she was Dionis subordinate entrusted with trivial duties. It is a girl with mixed

origins of human and Mazoku.

「Oh, that's right」(Dionis)

Dionis makes a gentle smile as he turned around facing that girl.

Then, immediately after that.

「Ga——, Ba!？」(Unknown Girl)

The girl's face was covered up by a sphere which consists of water. The girl struggled while her eyes roll in bewilderment as she's deprived of oxygen. However, the water sphere continues to seal the girl breath as long it doesn't disappear from her face.

「Say, who permitted you to talk, huh? With such social standing of lowborn scum, do you think that you will be forgiven when you talk back to me?」(Dionis)
The girl opened her mouth as she tries to say something, but unfortunately, her voice wouldn't be heard from the outside because her mouth was being blocked by the water. Then, the face of the girl gradually turns red and eventually changes to blue before long. On the other hand, Dionis seemed to enjoy the sight from the bottom of his heart.

「——I can't bear to watch it」(Unknown Blue Hair)

Simultaneously with that voice, something glittering has made the sphere which covered the girl fall into the ground.

The soaked girl was coughing vigorously after collapsing on the ground.

「Wasn't she your own subordinate?」(Unknown Blue Hair)

Said the man with a blue hair who sat on a seat next to Dionis who was silent until now. As the Mazoku from the Four Heavenly King of the Demon King army which was known as "Distortion" helped the girl while he scowled at Dionis.

「That's right, but? That's the reason why I did that on my own accord, you know」(Dionis) 「.....It's unpleasant and disgusting, you know」(Unknown Blue Hair) 「Yeah yeah, well I'm sorry for that, okay?」(Dionis)

Ignoring such insincere apology, "Distortion" called out to the collapsed girl.

「Oi, woman. For the time being, go outside this room———」(Distortion)

「Guh!?!」(Unknown Girl)

At the same time when “Distortion” called out to that girl, a sword that appeared abruptly has penetrated the girl right in her face. It pierced right in the middle of the girl’s forehead, with that the girl was already dead as it is.

「.....You bastard」(Distortion)

「I have just cleaned it up because you told me it was unpleasant, didn’t you? Ah, I’m sorry! You were just the same “mixed” as this one, aren’t you? No wonder that you were sympathising with her, huh?」(Dionis) 「Well said, that was supposed to mean “Please kill me”, didn’t it?」(Distortion) At that moments, a tense atmosphere has drifted between them.

「——That’s enough」(Refiise)

Then, Refiise cut into their conversation and with such vigourousness, it has made everyone who was there get the illusion that the room temperature has gone down. Because of that, Dionis lowered his hips as he seated in his seat displeased while “Distortion” fell into silence without saying anything.

With that, Refiise proceeded the meeting forcibly just as it is.

「I understand, then I won’t make any improvement on your labyrinth. So we will leave it as it is. However」(Refiise) 「.....I know, even if you didn’t say it-ne」(Dionis)

Dionis nods while floating a smile which seemed innocent.

In response, Refiise announce.

「.....Then, with this, the meeting has ended」(Refiise)



In the meeting room after the other Mazoku left.

The laughter of a woman’s echoes.

Echoes all over the room accompany with her *KUSUKUSU* chuckling.

「.....What’s so funny, “Lucifina”」(Dionis)

「There’s nothing, its just that I thought that you never change」(Lucifina) Said by the “Half-Elf” woman who never opened her mouth until now.

The glowing golden hair that shines fascinatingly as if the light in the sun was tied in the bundle and her silver eyes that make the beholder feel kindness from it.

Unlike the other Mazoku, that women is wearing a loose dress.

「So what will do you do? Aside from the Empire Army, it is said that the Hero is moving in the same way as “that” idiot, you know?」(Lucifina) 「It doesn't bother me at all」(Dionis)

As Dionis answered the question of Lucifina.

「I just need to kill him, that's all」(Dionis)

Lucifina *KUSUKUSU* chuckled as she expected that answer.

The labyrinth which was installed in the Empire.

The Guardian of the Labyrinth of Death Swamp———、

「It will be in the same way as “that” Hero」(Dionis)

While Dionis of the “Water Demon Lord” smiled wickedly.

Character Introduction For Arc 2

▪ AMATSUKI IORI/AMATSU

The legendary brave who was betrayed by his companion.
He was summoned in the future thirty years later and swear revenge for those who betrayed oneself.

In the Federation, he fulfils his gruesome revenge on Beltoga and Merwin.
Each time when he let out a「hahahaha!」 laugh, it is likely that his sanity level is reduced with it.

Because he once had excessive expectation towards others, he turns into an extremely doubtful toward others in the reaction of being betrayed. He was perplexed at the fact that the adventures didn't betray him and that has become the impetus for himself to see something in more positive light. By this events, he comes to realised that he have no eyes in judging others.

Head: None

Right arm: Magic Ring of Strength

Left arm: Magic Bracelet of Defense

Torso: Crimson Armour

Leg: Light boots

Weapons: Jade Longswords

Magic: Magic Break Suppression, Magic Usurpation, Magic Hit Reflection

▪ ELFISUZAKU GIRALDO

Former Demon King

Her subordinate was being massacred by Ortegia and she herself was being divided into five and being sealed.

She being divided into『Head』『Both Arms』『Both Legs』『Torso』『Heart』.

Currently, 『Head』and『Both Arms』have been regained.

Albeit she often showed free-spirited attitude, but she also has ruthless side against her enemies.

Head: None

Right arm: Hot spring steamed bun

Left arm: Hot spring steamed bun

Torso: Black dress

Leg: Black Boots

Weapon: None

Magic: Demon Eyes

The Federations

• Misha

A woman of a cat beastman.

Work as the B-ranker adventurer.

After being caught up in a war between the Mazoku and human, she fled from the settlement of a cat beastman.

Come over to the Hot Spring City with her younger sister and being is picked up by Zoorutsu when she at loss having nowhere to go.

For that reason, she was really grateful to Zoorutsu.

I think favourably toward Iori after being helped many times by him.

For that reason, she was really depressed when Iori was going to leaves the town.

Always refrained herself from attaching the『Nya』accent at the end of her words.

Head: Ear Cuff of Defense

Right arm: Gauntlet of Fire Dragon

Left arm: Gauntlet of Fire Dragon

Torso: Dragon Mail

Leg: Cat Boots

Weapon: Bazelat x 2

• **Nyameru**

A girl of the cat beastman.

Misha younger sister.

Taking refuge at the Hot Spring City with Misha, and being picked up by the Zoorutsu.

Since that, she has been a helper in the blacksmith.

She will use her『Nya』accent without considering to hide it.

Because of that, she has a lot of adventurers fans.

Head: None

Right Arm: None

Left arm: none

Torso: Reception Uniform

Leg: Easy-To-Move Shoes

Weapon: Tone of saying『Nya』

• **Zoorutsu**

Smith's store owner.

He was been saved by Iori in the past, and the word which was said by him at that time has been carved deeply into his chest.

That is why he has helped both Misha and Nyamel.

Have stubborn and blunt character but his blacksmith's ability is reliable.

Has made the Crimson Armour and the Jade Longsword and handed it to Iori.

• **Zolkin Fingus**

An A-ranker adventurer.

Actually, he is just a human albeit he appeared suspicious,

He has a disease releasing a regular magical power which known as Magic Discharge Illness that has forced him to wear armour to seal it.

He in his full power when he takes it off.

He had two children that become adventures and unfortunately, both of them has died.
Because of that, he wanted to prevent children from becoming adventurers.
And above all, he dislikes seeing children to dies the most.

• **Merwin Johannes**

A wolf beastman.

An excellent barrier mage.
He's lacking fighting power.

Thirty years ago, he decides to betray lori for sake of his own self-protection.
For fear of its being exposed, he had cooperated in the murder of lori.

Since defending the Federation from the attack of the Mazoku Army, he has been doing whatever he likes in the Hot Spring City.
He also has a connection with the congressman and adventurer guild staff.

After he heard the matter regarding lori from Luser, he burns down Zoorutsu shop in order to lure him out.
He set up the magic barrier and wait for lori together with his subordinates, but they have being outdone easily.
His heart is being broken by the lori though performance before he being burned to death in the despair.

Head: None
Right Arm: Silver Ring
Left arm: none
Torso: Indigo Suit
Legs: Black Leather Shoes
Weapon: None
Used Magic: The Magic Seal Barrier, The Magic Snatcher Barrier, Flame Bullets

▪ **Gordon**

Wolf beastman.

A B-ranker adventurer.

A proud wolf beastman who looks down on other races.

A subordinate of Merwin who being tasked to keep an eye on Iori, but was being turned into a cinder by Elfi demon eyes.

The demon king army

• Beltoga

The flame ogre who mastered the flame.

Butter up to the strong one while being harsh toward the weak.

One of the betrayers who deceived Iori thirty years ago by making him drink the deadly poison known as the「Nail Of The Ogre」

A subordinate of Dionis that being treat like a goofer by him.

He steals the document of the subjugation corps from the guild and has a connection with Merwin.

The user of the magic items and manage to be mixed up among the adventurers.

Although he is a man of ability, he has a lot of gaps because he was overconfident with his strength.

Although he was looking down on the Flame Demon Lord, in reality, he is weaker than the Flame Demon Lord himself.

He has considerably being looked down on by humans in the past that has taken a root in him and that the reason why he keeps uttering the “status” words wherever possible.

For that reason, Iori has referred him as “Status Oji-san”.

Albeit he bears mortal wound, he recovered after received potions from Iori. The instant when he was about to betray Iori, he writhed by the effect of the「Nail of the Ogre」which had been mixed inside the portion. He dies cause by the poison effect after he regrets from the bottom of his heart that he had betrayed Iori.

Head: Humanisation Helmet

Right Arm: None

Left arm: none

Torso: Armour of destruction

Leg: Flame Ogre Full Armour

Weapons: Metal Rod of Purgatory

Used magic: Demonic Majestic, Miraculous wind

• **Flame Demon Lord**

Rare species of the flame giant.

His individual name is Golgis.

His body will turned to black after being inflicted by damages and that will strengthen his magical power.